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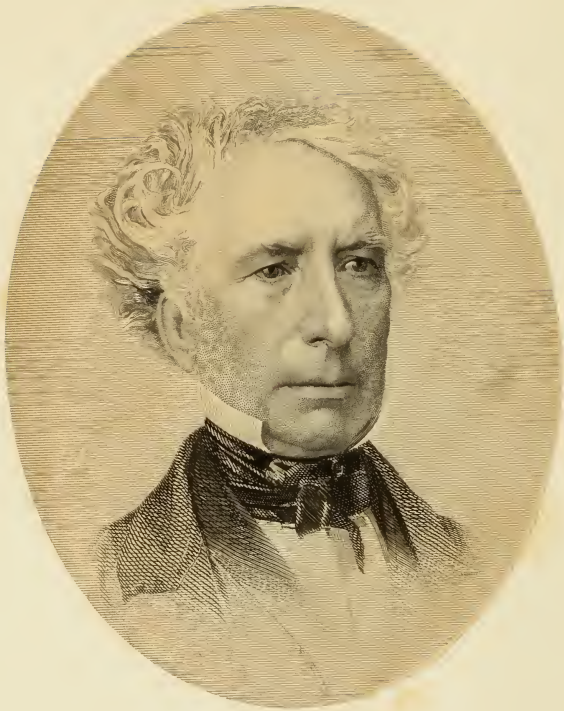












JAMES M<sup>C</sup>NAUGHTON, M. D.,

*Prof. of Theory and Practice of Medicine, and President of the Society in 1849.*

# ANNALS

OF THE

Medical Society of the County of Albany,

1806—1851.

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WITH

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF

DECEASED MEMBERS,

BY

SYLVESTER D. WILLARD, M. D.

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"A wise Physician skilled our wounds to heal,  
Is more than armies to the public weal."  
*Iliad*, Book xi.

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ALBANY :

J. MUNSELL, 78 STATE STREET,

1864.



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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE Medical Society of the County of Albany has existed for more than half a century. Its beginning was small, and its growth has been necessarily slow. Its meetings have been held with a great degree of regularity, and brief records of them have been preserved. The increased interest that attaches to these records after so long a period, and the importance of placing them in form for more permanent preservation, has induced their present publication. It is to be regretted that the limits of this volume could only embrace the records to the year 1851, as since that date the Society has gained new vitality, and its members are the active professional men of the present day. But the sphere of this volume is with the past, rather than with the present. It is a painful thought that after long lives, and useful in the walks of a noble profession, the memory of us so soon ceases, and we are known not even by name to those who fill our places. It is with a view of preserving a full history of the Medical Society, and of placing beyond the reach of immediate forgetfulness, some notice of those who have been its members, that the following Biographical Sketches of them have been written. Among the number are several whose names are well known all over the country, and wherever medical science has extended. There are others who have filled important positions in the community, and others still who have no possible claims to either prominence or distinction. The author has spared no labor to obtain some notice of every deceased member, and though in several instances it is very brief, yet it has been preserved, and it is no fault

of his, that the lives of some do not furnish more abundant material for his pen. It has been no part of his plan to pronounce unmerited praise upon any, nor to withhold that which justly belonged to them. The want of a standard for comparison often renders it difficult to estimate the degree of skill to which each should have been awarded. There are several who united with the Society since 1851, who have deceased, but the volume having already largely extended beyond the size intended for it, notices of them have been reserved until the records subsequent to that date shall be published. The order given to the arrangement of the sketches is precisely that in which the subjects were admitted to membership. The volume would scarcely have been complete without the notices of Drs. FONDA, VAN DUSEN, BAY, and PLATT WILLIAMS, who have been so intimately identified with the Society, and who with Dr. WADE still survive in venerable age.

The volume while it presents a complete history of the Society, is designed also to fill a vacancy in the Medical History of the City,—and may it not be hoped to exert an influence to wrest from the hand of time the history of similar institutions; and notices of Medical men in other localities, whose memories would otherwise perish.

My obligations are due to Mrs. VAN CORTLANDT for the graceful sketches of her father and uncle T. Romeyn and Lewis C. Beck; to Dr. BARENT P. STAATS whose sharp memory has proved a store house of incidents, and to my venerable friend Dr. PETER VAN OLINDA who has patiently placed his knowledge of the men whom I have noticed at my disposal; and to all who have answered my many persistent inquiries. If I have contributed to the profession, to which my life is earnestly devoted, either in preserving its past history, or adding to its future, my labors will be abundantly rewarded.

S. D. W.

Albany, Oct. 1, 1864.

# ANNALS

OF THE

## Medical Society of the County of Albany.

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At a meeting of several physicians of the city of Albany on the first Tuesday in July, agreeably to an act entitled "An act to incorporate Medical Societies for the purpose of regulating the practice of physic and surgery in this state, passed 18th March, 1806," and a sufficient number to form a quorum not appearing, they agreed to meet again for the above purpose on Tuesday, 29th July following; and the physicians and surgeons of the county were notified accordingly.

Agreeably to the time appointed by adjournment, a meeting of the physicians and surgeons of the city and county of Albany, was held at the City Hall in the city of Albany, on Tuesday, 29th July, 1806, for the purpose of forming themselves into a Medical Society, conformably to an "act of the legislature of this state passed the 18th March," 1806, to incorporate Medical Societies for regulating the practice of physic and surgery within this state.

The following gentlemen convened, and proceeded to form themselves into a society :

Wilhelmus Mancius, Albany.  
 Hunloke Woodruff, do.  
 William McClelland, do.  
 John G. Knauff, do.  
 Caleb Gauff, Bethlehem.  
 Augustus Harris, do.  
 Joseph W. Hegeman, Schenectady.  
 Cornelius Vrooman, Jr., do.  
 Alexander G. Fonda, do.  
 Charles D. Townsend, Albany.

Wilhelmus Mancius was elected to the chair, and Charles D. Townsend, secretary.

The members then proceeded by ballot to the choice of officers.

Hunloke Woodruff was unanimously elected President.  
 William McClelland, Vice-President,  
 Charles D. Townsend, Secretary,  
 John G. Knauff, Treasurer,

And the following resolutions were adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That this society be known by the name of the *Medical Society of the County of Albany*.

*Resolved*, That the board of censors shall consist of five members chosen from among the physicians and surgeons of the city and county of Albany.

And the following were elected by ballot to that office.

William McClelland, *Albany*.  
 William Anderson, *Schenectady*.  
 Charles D. Townsend, *Albany*.  
 Joseph W. Hegeman, *Schenectady*.  
 Elias Willard, *Waterliet*.

*Resolved*, That Hunloke Woodruff, William McClelland, and Charles D. Townsend, be and are hereby constituted a committee to report a code of bye-laws to the society, for



the purpose of governing, regulating, and carrying into effect, the true intent and meaning of the law under which this Society is incorporated.

*Resolved*, That this Society meet again on the first Tuesday in October next, at the same place, for the purpose of reviewing the report of the said committee.

*Resolved*, That the anniversary meeting of this Society be on the second Tuesday in January.

The Society then adjourned.

A meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Albany was held at the City Hall on Tuesday the 7th October, 1806, for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee appointed to draught a code of bye-laws, agreeably to the time appointed by adjournment. The following members convened: Hunloke Woodruff, William McClelland, Elias Willard, John G. Knauff, Charles D. Townsend, Augustus R. Taylor.

The committee appointed to draught a code of bye-laws regulating this Society, report the following, viz :

Art. 1. That the stated meetings of this Society shall be held on the Tuesday in January, April, July, and October, at 11 o'clock A. M. ; and five members shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

Art. 2. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary, Treasurer, and Censors, shall be chosen by ballot at the anniversary meeting of this Society ; and if no election takes place on that day, they are to hold their offices until the next anniversary meeting.

Art. 3. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings ; to preserve order ; and to regulate the business of the Society, agreeably to the sense and intention of the members. He shall call special meetings of the Society when he judges it necessary, or when applied to for that purpose by any two of the members ; and to cause notice thereof to be given by the Secretary.

Art. 4. In the absence of the President, his duties shall devolve on the Vice-President, and when both are absent the Society shall elect a President *pro tempore*.

Art. 5. The Secretary shall attend all meetings, and shall enter the proceedings of the Society in a book to be kept for that purpose; and shall read all letters and papers which may be communicated to the Society; and transcribe in a separate book, such of them as the Society may judge worthy of being preserved. He shall give timely notice in two newspapers of this city of all regular, or such extra meetings of the Society as the President shall deem expedient to call. He shall also give notice to members of their election; shall write and answer letters in behalf of the Society, and shall manage all matters of correspondence; and shall keep an exact record of all candidates admitted to the practice of physic and surgery by this Society. In case of the absence of the Secretary the President shall appoint a Secretary *pro tempore*.

Art. 6. It shall be the Treasurer's duty to take charge of and keep a correct account of all moneys belonging to the Society, with the receipts and expenditures thereof, and to exhibit a statement of the funds once in every year, or as often as he shall be required so to do; and for the faithful discharge of his trust before he enters on the duties of his office to give security to the Society in such sum as the President and Vice-President may judge proper and sufficient. He shall preserve for the benefit of the Society all donations, and other moveable property committed to his charge; and keep an exact list of the same, together with the names of the respective donors.

Art. 7. Not less than three Censors shall constitute a board for examining all candidates who shall present themselves for that purpose, and shall report to the President within forty-eight hours their opinion.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Censors to examine

all candidates to be admitted to the practice of physic and surgery on the following branches of medicine, viz: materia medica, pharmacy, anatomy, surgery, physiology, theory, and practice of physic, midwifery, and chemistry.

Art. 8. When any person is proposed for admission, the member proposing him shall give to the Secretary at a stated meeting of the Society, a written notification thereof, mentioning the name of the candidate, and his place of abode, which notification shall be read; the election shall be by ballot, and the votes of three-fourths of the members present must be given him to obtain his admission.

Art. 9. Every member shall upon his election and subscribing to the constitution and laws, pay a fee of admission not less than three dollars, and shall also pay to the Society at each quarterly meeting the sum of fifty cents.

Art. 10. All moneys collected at the quarterly meetings from members, together with the fees paid by candidates for examination, shall go to the funds of the Society, and shall be appropriated to the establishment of a medical and philosophical library, and apparatus.

Art. 11. Every candidate, when he presents himself for examination, shall pay a fee to the Treasurer of this Society, for its use, not less than two dollars.

Art. 12. Candidates presenting themselves for examination shall notify the President of their intention in writing at the quarterly meetings of the Society, and the Censors shall proceed as soon as possible thereafter to their examination: and it shall be optional with any member of this Society, to attend the examination of all candidates.

Art. 13. No moneys shall be drawn out of the treasury except by special order of the President.

Art. 14. The exercises of this Society shall be to receive and collect information on the different subjects relative to medical science, and a medical Dissertation shall be

handed in to the Society at every quarterly meeting, by one of the members. Each dissertation shall have two readings, but shall be subjected to the remarks and discussion of the members only on the last. Each member shall write his dissertation in alphabetical order.

Art. 15. Every member when he addresses the chair shall rise, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, except he be declared to be out of order on appeal being made to the President. No member shall speak more than twice on any one subject in debate, except he obtain permission from the President for that purpose. The President shall have the power to call any member present to the chair, and may take an active part in the debate upon either side of the question.

Art. 16. At every stated meeting of the Society the members present may present a medical question in writing from which the President shall select the subject to be proposed for dissertation at the next meeting.

Art. 17. These laws shall not be altered except the amendment proposed shall have been submitted to the consideration of the Society at a previous stated meeting; and three-fourths of the members present shall be necessary to ratify any amendment.

In witness of our respective memberships of this Society we do hereunto subscribe our names to the above laws and regulations this the fourteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seven.

HUNLOKE WOODRUFF,  
WILLIAM McCLELLAND,  
C. D. TOWNSEND,  
JOHN G. KNAUFF,  
JAMES LOW,\*  
ISAAC HYDE,

JACOB L VAN DEUSEN,  
PETER WENDELL,  
ALEXR. G. FONDA,  
PETER D. LAMATER,  
ENOCH CHENEY,

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\* The following names were signed at subsequent dates.



|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| WILLIAM BAY,          | RICHMOND BROWNELL, |
| JOHN STEARNS,         | PLATT WILLIAMS,    |
| J EIGHTS,             | JOHN G. VOUGHT,    |
| THEODRIC ROMEYN BECK, | GEORGE UPFOLD JR,  |
| ERASTUS WILLIAMS,     | JOEL A. WING,      |
| JONATHAN JOHNSON,     | PETER VAN O'LINDA, |

*Resolved*, That the bye-laws have their first reading.

*Resolved*, That the President and Vice-President be a committee to prepare a seal with a suitable device, and draught a form of a diploma in Latin to be presented to those gentlemen who have passed their examinations.

The Society then adjourned to meet again at the day appointed for their anniversary.

Agreeably to the time appointed for the anniversary meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, the following members convened at the City Hall in the city of Albany, on Tuesday the 13th January, 1807: Hunloke Woodruff, William McClelland, John G. Knauff, Augustus R. Taylor, Charles D. Townsend. The members then proceeded to the choice of officers for the ensuing year, and the following were elected.

Hunloke Woodruff, *President*.

William McClelland, *Vice-President*.

Charles D. Townsend, *Secretary*.

John G. Knauff, *Treasurer*.

And the following were chosen Censors:

William McClelland, Albany.

John G. Knauff, do.

Augustus R. Taylor, Schenectady.

Charles D. Townsend, Albany.

Joseph W. Hegeman, Schenectady.

William McClelland was elected representative to the State Society.

*Resolved*, That the bye-laws have a second reading.



Augustus R. Taylor was appointed to present a Medical Dissertation to this Society at the next quarterly meeting.

*Resolved*, That Augustus R. Taylor and Charles D. Townsend be a committee to revise the by-laws and report any necessary amendment thereof.

*Resolved*, That Hunloke Woodruff and William McClelland report a form of a certificate for the respective memberships of this Society which shall be in Latin.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the President's address be requested for publication.

The Society then adjourned to meet again on Tuesday the 14th April, 1807.

The Society met on Tuesday the 14th of April, 1807, at the time and place appointed, and adjourned to the house of Hunloke Woodruff, where the following members convened: Hunloke Woodruff, William McClelland, John G. Knauff, Elias Willard, Charles D. Townsend, Cornelius Vrooman, Jr., Alexander G. Fonda.

*Resolved*, That Jacob L. Van Deusen and Peter Wendell be admitted members of this Society.

The by-laws were then read a third time and passed.

*Resolved*, That Hunloke Woodruff, and William McClelland report the form of a diploma for candidates, of their admission to the practice of physic and surgery, and also the form of certificate for the respective members of this Society by the next quarterly meeting.

*Resolved*, That the eighth article of the by-laws for the benefit of physicians and surgeons in this county who have not yet become members of this Society, be published.

A notification of William Smith Gannad was read by the President signifying his intention to present himself for examination before the board of Censors for admission to the practice of physic and surgery.

*Resolved*, That the device for the seal of this Society presented by the committee for that purpose be adopted.

Charles D. Townsend was appointed by the President to present a medical dissertation to this Society at the next quarterly meeting. Augustus R. Taylor, not having complied with his appointment at the last meeting, he is requested to present his dissertation also at the next quarterly meeting.

The Society then adjourned to meet again on Tuesday the 14th July, 1807.

At a meeting of the board of Censors at 4 o'clock P. M. on Tuesday the 14th April, 1807: Present, William McClelland, John G. Knauff, Charles D. Townsend, for the purpose of examining William Smith Gannad, who according to law is entitled to such examination for his admission to practice physic and surgery in this state, passed his examination on the 15th April much to the satisfaction of the Censors, and was recommended to the President for his diploma; which he obtained June 6th.

The Medical Society of the County of Albany convened at the City Hall on Tuesday the 14th July, 1807. Present, Hunloke Woodruff, William McClelland, John G. Knauff, Charles D. Townsend, Jacob L. Van Deusen, Peter Wendell.

The by-laws were again read, and approved.

The following resolutions were adopted, viz.

*Resolved*, That the account of G. Fairman for engraving the seal of this Society, \$16.25, be paid out of the funds; also the account of Charles D. Townsend for books and stationery, amounting to \$3.12½, be allowed.

An application of Simon Veeder to the President was read, in which he states his intention to present himself before the Board of Censors to take an examination, for admission to practice physic and surgery. The Censors agreed to meet for that purpose on Thursday following at 2 o'clock P. M.

A dissertation was read before the Society by Charles D. Townsend on puerperal fever.

John G. Knauff was appointed by the President to write a dissertation on the opinion entertained by the moderns, of what the ancients termed derivative and revulsive blood letting.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society be tendered to Charles D. Townsend for his dissertation on puerperal fever; and that the proceedings of this meeting be published.

*Resolved*, That at every meeting of this Society hereafter a donation of 25 cents be made to the door-keeper for his trouble.

The Society then adjourned to meet again on the second Tuesday, or 13th of October next.

At a meeting of the Board of Censors on Thursday the 16th inst. 2 o'clock P. M. Present, William McClelland, John G. Knauff, Charles D. Townsend. Simon Veeder presented himself for examination, in which he acquitted himself with honor, and gave ample testimony of his medical knowledge, and was recommended to the President for his diploma, which he obtained on the 18th inst., and thereby is admitted to the practice of physic and surgery, agreeably to the law of this state.

A meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Albany was held on Tuesday the 13th October, 1807. Present, Hunloke Woodruff, William McClelland, John G. Knauff, Charles D. Townsend, Jacob L. Van Deusen, Peter Wendell.

Doctor James Low a graduate of the College of Edinburgh, presented his diploma; therefore, agreeably to the law of this state, he is admitted to practice physic and surgery within this state.

A letter from the College of Physicians of New York was

read, requesting the President to grant permission to any student of medicine whom he should select to attend the lectures in the College of New York gratis.

The President consulted the Society on two applications made to him by William Nicoll and Joshua Burnet; the former was agreed upon for that purpose.

Doctors Charles D. Cooper and James Low of the city of Albany made application to become members of this Society.

The following resolution was adopted, that the thanks of this Society be conferred on John G. Knauff for his dissertation.

The Society then adjourned to meet again on the second Tuesday in January.

On the second Tuesday in January, 1803, being the anniversary meeting of this Society, not a sufficient number of members appearing to form a quorum the meeting was consequently postponed until the second Tuesday in April.

A quarterly meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Albany was held on Tuesday the 12th April, 1808, at 11 o'clock A. M. The following members convened; Hunloke Woodruff, William McClelland, John G. Knauff, Alexander G. Fonda, Jacob L. Van Deusen, Peter Wendell, Charles D. Townsend.

The proceedings of the last meeting were then read.

Charles D. Cooper and James Low were elected members of this Society.

*Resolved*, That John G. Knauff and Charles D. Townsend be a committee to revise the by-laws of this Society.

*Resolved*, That James Low be added to the committee for the purpose of draughting a diploma to be laid before this Society; and that the same committee report a form of certificate for the respective memberships of this Society

at the next meeting; agreeably to a resolution to that effect, passed 13th January, 1807.

The Society then adjourned to meet again at two o'clock P. M.

The committee for revising the by-laws of this Society report the following amendment, viz: that, that part or section of the 8th article with respect to the admission of members, *at the next meeting* be expunged; and that the candidate for admission have his election at the same meeting when he is proposed.

Doctor Archibald Hamilton Adams, of Schenectady, and Isaac Hyde of Rensselaerville, were elected members of this Society.

*Resolved*, That the election of a Delegate to supply the place of the one whose seat becomes vacant the 2nd Tuesday of February next, be postponed till the next quarterly meeting.

*Resolved*, That each member of this Society produce a geological and topographical description of such one of the townships in this county as shall be allotted to him by the President.

Allotment as follows:

Albany, William McClelland.

Schenectady, Alex. G. Fonda.

Guilderland, John G. Knauff.

Bern, Arch. Ham. Adams.

Duanesburg, Augustus R. Taylor.

Rensselaerville, James Low.

Coeymans, Peter Wendell.

Bethlehem, Jacob L. Van Deusen.

Prince Town, Cornelius Vrooman Jr.

Watervliet, Charles D. Townsend.

The Society then proceeded to the reading and discussion of Charles D. Townsend's treatise on puerperal fever, and then adjourned to meet again on the second Tuesday in July next.



A meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Albany was held at the City Hall on Tuesday, the 19th July, 1808, agreeably to the time appointed by law, and then adjourned to meet again at the chemical lecture room, Chapel street, at 2 o'clock P. M. Present, H. Woodruff, James Low, William McClelland, C. D. Townsend, Jno. G. Knauff.

The report of the committee was then read for amending the by-laws, and adopted as one of the articles of the by-laws of this Society, viz :

Art. 18. In case any member of this Society shall fail in his attendance for four successive quarterly meetings, and shall not pay up the quarterly payments in the course of one year, the Treasurer shall inform him of such sum in arrear, and if he shall withhold the payments thereof it shall be the Treasurer's duty to prosecute annually for such sum as he shall stand indebted.

The committee for draughting a form of diploma for candidates admitted to the practice of physic and surgery by this Society, report the following viz :\*

The Society refunded Doctor W. McClelland the amount of his expenditures at the State Medical Society, the sum of 4 dollars for the last year.

A donation of Doctor W. McClelland of two dollars to this Society.

Doctor William McClelland was unanimously reëlected Delegate to the State Medical Society for the ensuing year.

A communication was made by Doctor John G. Knauff of a case of spasm in consequence of uterine hemorrhage, in which the hyosciamus nigra proved successful.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society be tendered to Dr. Knauff for his valuable hint on the use of the foregoing medicine, which has been too much neglected in this part of the country, and that the foregoing case be preserved on file.

*Resolved*, That the resolution of Dr. McClelland as

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\* Report not recorded.

representative to the State Medical Society be published; also that the candidates admitted to the practice of physic and surgery be informed that their diplomas are now ready for their reception.

*Resolved*, That there be an annual committee appointed for the purpose of procuring the periodical publications, on philosophy and medicine: and that Doctors Woodruff and Low constitute that committee for the ensuing year.

*Resolved*, That the stated quarterly meetings of this Society be hereafter held at the chemical lecture room in Chapel street, at 2 o'clock P. M.

*Resolved*, That besides the quarterly meetings of this Society established by law, a meeting shall be held on the second Tuesday of every intervening month at the place aforesaid for the purpose of promoting social intercourse and harmony, and that all respectable physicians in the county are requested to attend.

The Medical Society of the county of Albany held a quarterly meeting at the place appointed and the following members convened viz: Hunloke Woodruff, William McClelland, John G. Knauff, Charles D. Townsend, James Low.

The proceedings of the last meeting were then read.

A communication was presented from the secretary of Columbia College, and one from the President of the College of Physicians of New York, both stating that the separate institutions will admit a student gratis to attend the different courses of lectures, who shall bring with him a certificate of his recommendation by this Society from the President.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society be given to the faculty of Columbia College and the College of Physicians for their circulars, and their attention to and encourage-

ment of the medical interests of the country; that this Society will gratefully accept of the generous offers made by the said faculties.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Romeyn Beck be recommended by this Society as a suitable person to accept the offers of Columbia College agreeably to the circular of that institution dated 6th October, 1808.

*Resolved*, That the individual members of this Society who were appointed to give a topographical and geological description of the several towns of this county are requested to present the same to the President on or before the first day of November next, when an extraordinary meeting of the Society will be called for that purpose.

A dissertation on phlegmasia dolens, was read by James Low before the Society.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society be tendered to James Low for his dissertation.

*Resolved*, That the President be paid for all postage of letters which he shall receive in behalf of the Society.

The anniversary meeting of the Medical Society of Albany was held on Tuesday the 10th July, 1809. Present, H. Woodruff, W. McClelland, John G. Knauff, Chas. D. Townsend, James Low. The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year.

Hunloke Woodruff, *President*.

William McClelland, *Vice-President*.

John G. Knauff, *Treasurer*.

Charles D. Townsend, *Secretary*.

John G. Knauff, Charles D. Townsend, James Low, *Censors*.

Doctor William McClelland having declined his delegation to the State Medical Society;

*Resolved*, Unanimously, that no representation to that body be made for the present year.

At a special meeting of the Medical Society of the county of Albany held on Monday, the 30th January, 1809, at the President's house for the purpose of taking into consideration a circular letter and enclosed pamphlets from the Presidents of the Medical Society of the county of New York to the Secretary of this Society. Present, Hunloke Woodruff, William McClelland, John G. Knauff, James Low, Charles D. Townsend. The letter and pamphlets were then read. James Low and Charles D. Townsend were appointed a committee to draught an answer to the above letter and to report as soon as possible.

The answer to the letter aforesaid was transmitted to the President of the Medical Society of the County of New York after obtaining the approbation of the Society.

A sufficient number of members not appearing to form a quorum on the second Tuesday in April they adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, 11th July, 1809.

A quarterly meeting of the Medical Society was held on Tuesday 11th July, 1809. Present, H. Woodruff, Wm. McClelland, Charles D. Townsend, James Low, J. L. Van Deusen, Peter Wendell.

On application of Simon Veeder to become a member of this Society he was unanimously elected and requested to take his seat.

The resignation of John G. Knauff was accepted of by the Society, and he obtained leave to withdraw. Peter Wendell was elected Treasurer of this Society in place of Jno. G. Knauff, resigned.

*Resolved*, That whereas John G. Knauff having resigned his seat in this Society and therewith his office of Treasurer, that J. L. Van Deusen and Simon Veeder be a committee to wait on the said John G. Knauff and demand of him the books of the Society together with the balance of the funds now remaining in his hands, and that they deliver the same to Peter Wendell, Treasurer of this Society.



J. L. Van Deusen was elected Censor in place of Jno. G. Knauff resigned.

Mr. Solomon Bailey and E. G. Dunnel made application to the President for their examination to be admitted to practice physic and surgery in this state.

*Resolved*, That Charles D. Townsend and James Low be a committee to take into consideration the oppressive tendency of the act to organize the militia of this state passed during the last session of the legislature, inasmuch as the said act respects physicians and surgeons, and that they report at the next meeting a draught of a circular to be directed to each of the societies throughout the state.

The Society then adjourned to meet again second Tuesday in October.

At a meeting of the Board of Censors after the adjournment of the Society on Tuesday, 11th July, 1809. Present, James Low, J. L. Van Deusen, Charles D. Townsend, for the purpose of examining Solomon Bailey\* and E. G. Dunnel for their admission to practice physic and surgery in this state. They acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of the Censors and were recommended to the President for their diplomas, which they obtained on 15th inst.

#### A quarterly meeting of the Medical Society of the

\* Solomon Bailey was born in Chatham, Columbia county, on the 11th day of April, 1774. He completed his medical studies in the office of Drs. Low and McClelland at Albany, and received his diploma from the Medical Society of the county of Albany in 1809. Dr. Bailey began his professional life in Schodack, Rensselaer county, where he continued for three years. In 1812, he removed to Bethlehem, about eight miles below Albany, where he continued during his life. He was an honest, enterprising, public spirited citizen, and greatly interested in the subject of common school education. By the community around him he was held in high esteem for the many virtues of his character. For several years before his death he devoted much time to agricultural pursuits. He died March 16th, 1839, in the sixty-fifth year of his age. Dr. Bailey is represented in the profession by two sons, both graduates of the Albany Medical College in 1853; Dr. James S. Bailey residing in Texas, and Dr. William H. Bailey of Albany.

County of Albany was held on Tuesday the 10th October, 1809. Present, Hunloke Woodruff, Wm. McClelland, James Low, J. Lansing Van Deusen, C. D. Townsend. The committee appointed to take into consideration the oppressive tendency of that part of the act (entitled an act to organize the militia), as it relates to physicians and surgeons, &c., not being ready to report, they obtained leave to sit again, and report on Tuesday, the 17th inst., at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Mr. Romeyn Beck being proposed by Doctor W. McClelland as candidate for attending lectures in Columbia College the ensuing season, was unanimously elected.

Mr. Alexander McClelland was chosen to attend the lectures in the College of Physicians, New York, being proposed by the President.

Mr. William Nicoll notified to the President his intention of presenting himself as a candidate for the practice of physic and surgery. The Censors agreed to proceed in his examination Wednesday, 3 o'clock P. M.

The Society then adjourned to meet again on Tuesday the 17th inst. 3 o'clock P. M.

Mr. William Nicoll passed his examination, much to the satisfaction of the Censors and honor to himself, on Wednesday the 11th inst., and received his diploma from the President.

The Society met according to adjournment on Tuesday the 17th inst. to receive the report of the committee, which was unanimously adopted by the Society and ordered copies of the circular letter to be printed and forwarded by the President to every medical society in this state as soon as possible. The purport of the letter is that they charge their delegates to unite with ours in a general petition to the legislature the ensuing session in order to have that part of the act for regulating the militia which relates to physicians and surgeons repealed.



The anniversary meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Albany was held on Tuesday the 9th January 1810. Present, Hunloke Woodruff, Wm. McClelland, James Low, Jacob L. Van Deusen, Peter Wendell, Charles D. Townsend. After the minutes were read the Society proceeded to the election of officers.

Hunloke Woodruff was unanimously elected *President*.

Wm. McClelland, *Vice-President*.

Charles D. Townsend, *Secretary*.

Peter Wendell, *Treasurer*.

Wm. McClelland, Charles D. Townsend, James Low, Peter Wendell, Jacob L. Van Deusen, *Censors*.

William McClelland was elected delegate to the State Medical Society for the ensuing year.

The Society then adjourned to meet again on the second Tuesday in April.

A special meeting of the Medical Society was held on Tuesday the 16th March, 1810, for the purpose of taking into consideration the purchase of a medical work entitled the *Medical and Physical Journal*, published by T. Bradly, M. D., R. Batty and A. A. Nochden, consisting of 21 octavo vols. valued at \$105.

The Society resolved on the purchase of the books and the committee were instructed to make the best terms in their power with Messrs. Webster and Skinner.

*Resolved*, That each member of this Society pay three dollars per quarter to meet the several payments of the above work, and to continue to pay the sum of three dollars per quarter until the whole sum be paid.

*Resolved*, That the President and Secretary shall sign no diploma for any person admitted to the practice of physic by this Society until such person shall produce a receipt from the Treasurer that all expenses for his admission be paid.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to wait on Dr. E. Willard to ascertain whether he intends to continue a member of this Society, and that Drs. Woodruff and Townsend be a committee for that purpose.

On Tuesday 10th April, 1810, a number of members of the Society met agreeably to the time appointed, but not a sufficient number appearing to form a quorum they adjourned after the President had laid before them a written notification from John L. Tonelier that he intended presenting himself for examination for admittance to practice physic and surgery. His examination took place the following day before the board of Censors. Present James Low, Jacob L. Van Deusen, Peter Wendell, Charles D. Townsend. He was recommended by their certificate of his qualifications in the science of medicine to the President for his diploma.

At a quarterly meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Albany held at the Capitol on Tuesday, 10th July, 1810. Present, Hunloke Woodruff, *President*. Wm McClelland, *Vice-President*. J. L. Van Deusen, Isaac Hyde, Wm. Anderson, *Members*.

Doct. Jonathan Eights producing his certificate from the Medical Society of the County of Montgomery took his seat in the Society.

Mr. William Joyce notified the President of his intention to present himself before the Censors of this Society as a candidate for the practice of physic and surgery.

*Resolved*, That Doct. Jonathan Eights be appointed a Censor pro tempore to supply the place of Doct. James Low.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Townsend, Low, and Eights be a committee to revise the by-laws of this Society and report within one month upon the same to the President, who is hereby ordered to call an extra meeting to receive the

report upon the by-laws, with improvements, if any, to be published.

Mr. John Staats offers himself a candidate for permission to attend the medical lectures of Columbia College.

Mr. Daniel Hudson, a student with Doct. Hyde, offers himself a candidate to attend the lectures of College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The by-laws of the Medical Society of the County of Rensselaer were received and read before the Society. Adjourned.

At a quarterly meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Albany held at the Capitol on Tuesday the 9th October, 1810. Present, Hunloke Woodruff, *President*. William McClelland, *Vice-President*. J. Lansing Van Deusen, Isaac Hyde, James Low, Jonathan Eights, Peter Wendell, *Members*.

*Resolved*, That all physicians who have been members of a medical society of any county within this state, and who have become resident in this county, and who shall produce satisfactory evidence of such membership, shall be admitted as a member of this Society without paying any admission fee.

Doctors William Bay of the county of Columbia, and John Stearns of the county of Saratoga, were admitted members of this Society.

*Resolved*, That the Society meet in the Capitol on the fourth Tuesday of October inst. for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee for the revision of the by-laws.

A circular letter from the College of Physicians and Surgeons was received and read, informing the Society that the privilege heretofore extended to students recommended by the county medical societies to attend lectures gratis, was withdrawn.

Wm. H. Wilson notified the Society of his intention to present himself for examination before the board of Censors for the practice of physic and surgery.

On the 23d October, 1810, the Society met according to adjournment. Present H. Woodruff, *President*. Wm. McClelland, *Vice-President*. Jas. Low, W. Bay, Jno. Stearns, C. D. Townsend, J. Eights, *Members*.

The by-laws as amended were adopted.

*Resolved*, That the President be librarian pro tempore and give out the books of the Society according to law. Adjourned.

Albany, January 8th, 1811.

The Society held their anniversary meeting at the Capitol. Present, W. McClelland, *Vice-President*. Jas. Low, Jno. Stearns, Jon. Eights, P. Wendell, W. Bay, *Members*.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read the Society proceeded to the election of officers for the year 1811, agreeably to the letter of the constitution, and the following gentlemen were duly elected, viz.

Hunloke Woodruff, *President*.

Wm. McClelland, *Vice-President*.

C. D. Townsend, *Secretary*.

P. Wendell, *Treasurer*.

Wm. Bay, *Librarian*.

Jno. Stearns, Wm. Bay, C. D. Townsend, Jas. Low, Wm. McClelland, *Censors*.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to address a circular letter to those physicians and surgeons of the city and county of Albany who are not members of this Society, informing them of the institution and objects of this Society, and inviting their coöperation in order to extend the usefulness of medical science.

*Resolved*, That Jno. Stearns and Wm. Bay be a committee for the above purpose.

*Resolved*, That the Society meet again this day three weeks at the Capitol, of which the Society shall give notice in the papers.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Wm. Bay for his dissertation on carbon, and that he serve the Secretary with a copy to be filed in the archives of the Society. Adjourned.

The Society held their quarterly meeting at the Capitol on Tuesday the 9th April, 1811. Present, William McClelland, John Stearns, James Low, Peter Wendell, Jonathan Eights, Wm. Bay, Isaac Hyde.

The minutes of the last meeting were read.

Doct. Eights read an essay on hydrocele.

Doct. Bay's dissertation on the properties of carbon with its effects on diseases was discussed.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. J. Eights for his dissertation on hydrocele, and that a copy of the same be requested for filing.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be requested to have 100 copies of the by-laws of the Society published as soon as convenient for the benefit of the members, and that the Treasurer pay the expenses of the same on the warrant of the President.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be directed to request Doct. Elias Willard to communicate to the Society the composition of his scrofulous and cancer remedy for which he has obtained a patent under the penalty of expulsion, agreeably to the 4th article 6th section of the by-laws of this Society, which communication to be made at the next quarterly meeting.

Mr. Daniel Hudson and John L. Staats offer themselves for examination. The Censors agree to meet them at 3 o'clock P. M. Adjourned.

Daniel Hudson was admitted to practice physic and surgery by this Society.



July 9th, 1811.

A quarterly meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Albany was held at the Capitol on Tuesday, 9th July, 1811. Present, J. Eights, Peter Wendell, Jas. Low, Jno. Stearns, Wm. Bay, C. D. Townsend.

*Resolved*, That the members of this Society wear crape on the left arm for thirty days as a mark of respect for their deceased President, Hunloke Woodruff.

James Low was elected President pro tempore.

The Secretary presented Doctor Elias Willard's letter to the Society wherein he refuses to communicate the composition of his nostrum for cure of cancer and serofula.

*Resolved*, That Doctor Elias Willard be and is hereby expelled from this Society for refusing to comply with the by-laws of this institution, and that he be served with a copy of said article of the by-laws and the foregoing resolution by the Secretary.

*Resolved*, That Wm. Bay, Jonathan Eights, and Peter Wendell be a committee to call upon W. Kittredge, in order to ascertain whether he is legally authorized by any medical seminary to practice physic and surgery within this state.

*Resolved*, That the *Medical and Physical Journal* property of this Society be disposed to any members, who will pay the highest sum above the demand now due upon them with interest, which was determined in favor of Chas. D. Townsend, who bid five dollars more than principal and interest now due, and was the highest bidder among the members.

*Resolved*, That Doctor Hyde be repaid the money which he advanced on account of the books in the foregoing resolution by the purchaser. Adjourned.

October 8th, 1811.

A quarterly meeting of the Medical Society of the coun-



ty of Albany was held this day at the Capitol. Present, W. McClelland, W. Bay, J. Eights, P. Wendell, J. Low.

Dr. T. Romeyn Beck of the city of Albany was proposed as a member and unanimously elected.

*Resolved*, That J. Eights and P. Wendell be a committee to procure certificates or diplomas for the use of the Society, and that they be printed on parchment, and that the Treasurer pay the amount of the same.

*Resolved*, That the Society meet again this day fortnight, when Dr. Low is to read his diploma, and that the Secretary give notice of the same in the public papers.

The Society met agreeably to the time appointed on Tuesday the 21st October, 1811. Present J. Eights, Wm. McClelland, Wm. Bay, J. Stearns, P. Wendell, C. D. Townsend, J. L. Van Deusen.

When Doctor Low did not appear, and the Society adjourned.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

14th Jany., 1812.

Doctors Erastus Williams and Jonathan Johnson were proposed as members of this Society and were unanimously elected.

Doct. William McClelland handed in his resignation of the office of Delegate to the State Medical Society which was accepted.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the following gentlemen were duly elected to the offices opposite their respective names:

William McClelland, *President*.

C. D. Townsend, *Vice-President*.

J. L. Van Deusen, *Secretary*.

Peter Wendell, *Treasurer*.

John Stearns, James Low, William Bay, Erastus Williams, Jonathan Eights, *Censors*.

John Stearns was elected Delegate to the State Medical Society in the place of Doctor William McClelland.

*Resolved*, That Docts. Stearns and Eights be a committee to procure fifteen impressions of the plate of certificates belonging to the Rensselaer and Saratoga Medical Societies.

*Resolved*, That Docts. Bay, Low, and Eights be a committee to procure a new seal for the use of the Society.

The Treasurer's report states that there is in the treasury a balance of \$35.12½.

*Ordered*, That the Secretary deliver to the delegate a copy of the by-laws of this Society to present to the State Medical Society.

*Resolved*, That Docts. Low, Stearns, and McClelland each deliver a dissertation at the next quarterly meeting.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary give notice of the regular meetings of this Society in the two papers published in this city one fortnight previous to each meeting. Society adjourned.

JACOB L. VAN DEUSEN, *Secretary*.

#### ALBANY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

##### *Extra Meeting.*

Present, W. Bay, James Low, J. Stearns, Peter Wendell, J. L. Van Deusen, C. D. Townsend.

*Resolved*, That the members of this Society wear crape on their left arm for the space of thirty days as a token of respect to the memory of their late President, Doct. William McClelland, deceased. Society adjourned.

JACOB L. VAN DUSEN, *Secretary*.

#### ALBANY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

##### *Quarterly Meeting.*

April 14, 1812.

Present, C. D. Townsend, *Vice-President*. John Stearns, W. Bay, T. R. Beck, Peter Wendell, James Low, J. Johnson.

The committee, appointed to procure certificates for the use of the Society, stated that they were not ready to re-

port; requested the indulgence of the Society to report at the next meeting, which was granted.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer supply the Secretary with necessary stationery for the use of the Society.

Dr. Low read a dissertation on cancer, and Dr. Stearns on croup.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society be presented to Docts. Low and Stearns for their dissertations. Doct. Townsend was appointed to read a dissertation at the next quarterly meeting.

The Secretary presented an account for publishing notices of meeting, amounting to fifteen shillings, which was ordered to be paid.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer be authorized to pay Mr. Elliott fifty cents at each quarterly meeting for fuel, &c.

Doct. Townsend proposed Doctor Peter Delemater for membership. Society adjourned.

J. L. VAN DEUSEN, *Secretary*.

ALBANY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY, 14th July, 1812.

Present, Charles D. Townsend, *Vice-President*. Jonathan Eights, James Low, T. R. Beck, Peter Wendell, Jonathan Johnson, John Stearns.

Doctor William Bay sent in his resignation of membership, which was ordered to lay over until next quarterly meeting.

Doctor Peter Delemater was balloted for and admitted of this Society.

*Resolved*, That the committee appointed to procure certificates furnish the Society with fifteen impressions at the next quarterly meeting.

Doctor Low read his dissertation on cancer which was discussed, and Doctor Stearns on croup which was likewise discussed. Society adjourned.

J. L. VAN DEUSEN, *Secretary*.

## MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY.

*Extra Meeting.*

August 3d, 1812.

Present, John Stearns, James Low, Jon. Eights, T. Romeyn Beck, Peter Wendell, J. L. Van Deusen.

*Resolved*, That Doctors Eights, Low, and Stearns be a committee to draught a form of certificate for the members of this Society, and that they report at the next meeting.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer take the copies of the by-laws of the Society into his keeping for distribution to the members of the Society.

*Resolved*, That the Society meet again on the last Monday of the present month at three o'clock P. M. Society adjourned.

J. L. VAN DEUSEN, *Secretary*.

## MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

October 13th, 1812.

Present, C. D. Townsend, *Vice-President*. John Stearns, J. Eights, T. Romeyn Beck, Isaac Hyde, P. Wendell, J. L. Van Deusen, James Low.

The Society met pursuant to adjournment. Doctor Hyde proposed Doctor Enoch Cheney as a member of this Society, the consideration of which was postponed until the next quarterly meeting.

The committee, appointed to draught a form of certificate, reported one which was accepted.

Messrs. Low, Eights, and Stearns were appointed a committee to procure fifteen copies of the certificate for the use of the members.

Doctor C. D. Townsend resigned his office of Vice-President, which was accepted, and also as member of the Society, which was not accepted.

*Resolved*, That Doctor Eights be President *pro tempore*.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary inform Doctor Bay that a

charge is laid against him, of giving counsel with a person expelled from this Society, and that he request Doctor Bay to attend at the next meeting of the Society, for the purpose of having the above charge investigated. Adjourned.

J. L. VAN DEUSEN, *Secretary*.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

Jany. 12th, 1813.

Pursuant to public notice, the Mèdical Society of the County of Albany, met at the Capitol at 11 A. M. Present, Dr. Eights, Dr. Low, Dr. Wendell, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Delamater, Dr. Beck.

Doctor Eights was appointed President *pro tempore*, and Doctor Beck, Secretary.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers, and the following gentlemen were elected to the offices respectively affixed to their names, viz.

Dr. Jonathan Eights, *President*.

Dr. Isaac Hyde, *Vice-President*.

Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, *Secretary*.

Dr. Peter Wendell, *Treasurer*.

Dr. James Low, *Delegate to the State Society*.

Dr. James Low, Dr. Erastus Williams, Dr. Jonathan Johnson, Dr. Peter Wendell, Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, *Censors*.

Doctor Wendell was appointed to read a dissertation at the next stated meeting.

The Treasurer reported that the funds of the Society amounted to \$21.50.

The committee, appointed to procure a seal, reported that they had performed the duty assigned them, and that the expense of it was \$36, which was ordered to be paid.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer pay Mr. W. H. Whiting \$11.50 for writing the certificates of membership.

*Ordered*, That the Secretary prepare the above certificates for the members.

*Ordered*, That a list of the officers be published.



*Resolved*, That the Treasurer take proper means to procure the payment of all debts due to this Society, which are of more than a years standing. Adjourned.

T. ROMEYN BECK, *Secretary*.

Albany, July 13th, 1813.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

The Society met pursuant to public notice. Present, Dr. Eights, Dr. Low, Dr. Wendell, Dr. Williams, Dr. Delamater, Dr. Stearns, Dr. Beck.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of this Society, as it respects the election of officers on the anniversary meeting be and they are hereby recognized as legal, and that the officers elected are authorized to hold their offices for the term of one year from the period of their election.

A division being called for on the above resolution, it passed in the affirmative in the manner following.

*Ayes*.—Dr. Eights, Dr. Low, Dr. Wendell, Dr. Williams, Dr. Delamater, Dr. Beck.

*Noes*.—Dr. Stearns.

Dr. Williams was appointed to read a dissertation at the next stated meeting.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to inquire what amendments are necessary to be made in the law regulating the practice of physic and surgery in this state, and that they report at the next quarterly meeting.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Stearns, Low, and Beck be that committee.

The following amendment to the by-laws was proposed by Doctor Low and seconded.

*Resolved*, That section 1st, article 1st, of the by-laws be amended in the manner following, viz., by expunging the last member of the sentence which is as follows: "*except for the purpose of an election 'when seven shall be necessary,'*" and



inserting in the former member of the sentence, between the words "*transact*," and "*business*," the word "*all*."

The following additional by-law was proposed by Doctor Stearns and seconded.

Whereas, harmony and union among the members of this Society are indispensably necessary to promote the important objects for which it was instituted; and whereas, any insidious attempts to asperse the reputation of members, with a view to destroy their usefulness, must tend to exclude social intercourse, introduce discord and terminate in a complete dissolution of this institution, and thereby defeat the great objects for which it was organized; and whereas, such practices are totally unworthy of this Society, and derogatory to the profession generally, therefore be it ordained,

That this Society may try any of its members, for malpractice, extortion, speaking disrespectfully of the Society with intent to injure it, and for maliciously inventing and propagating any slanderous or defamatory reports with a view to destroy or injure the reputation of any members of this Society; and it shall be the duty of each member of this Society to accuse any other member thereof for any misdemeanor that he may deem contrary to the true intent and meaning of the act of the legislature incorporating Medical Societies, or contrary to the by-laws thereof; and the accuser shall make a statement in writing of the misdemeanors aforesaid, and lay the same before the President; and the President shall issue a summons to the accused to appear before the next regular meeting of the Society, stating the time when and the place where it is to be holden, to defend against the accusation; a copy of which and of the summons shall be left with the accused, or at his usual place of residence at least twelve days previous to such meeting; and the accuser shall cause such summons to be served and returned to the Society at the commencement of their meeting; and if the accused refuse or neglect

to appear in person or by proxy, and no satisfactory reason is offered to the Society for such neglect, he shall be expelled from the Society; and if he be convicted of any of the charges alleged against him, he may be punished by fine, suspension or expulsion.

*Ordered*, That the above amendment and by-law be laid over for consideration at the next stated meeting.

The Secretary presented an account of Mr. Jesse Buel, for printing a notice of the meeting of the Society, amounting to \$0.88, which was allowed and ordered to be paid.

Doctor Lathrop, a member of the Medical Society of the County of Montgomery, having exhibited his certificate, was balloted for and unanimously elected a member of this Society. Adjourned.

T. ROMEYN BECK, *Secretary*.

#### MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY.

##### *Quarterly Meeting.*

Oct. 12th, 1813.

The Society met pursuant to public notice. Present, Dr. Eights, Dr. Low, Dr. Hyde, Dr. Van Deusen, Dr. Stearns, Dr. Wendell, Dr. Beck, Dr. Lathrop, Dr. Johnson.

Dr. Enoch Cheney having been proposed at a former meeting, was balloted for and unanimously elected a member of this Society.

The committee, appointed to inquire what amendments are necessary to be made in the law regulating the practice of physic and surgery in this state, report:

That they have attended to the duties of their appointment, and, being unable to procure a copy of the revised law, have examined the act passed April 4th, 1806, together with the amendments enacted in the session of 1811-12. These, they understand, are still in force. The committee report that in their opinion it would be conducive to the welfare of the medical profession were the second section

of the above act repealed, together with all the subsequent sections, parts of sections, and amendments which refer to the establishment and organization of the Medical Society of the State of New York. They further add, that in their opinion, the State Society is injurious to the promotion of medical knowledge, and the advancement of the profession; since its funds are partly created in a manner that diverts them from the county medical societies, the only real source from whence progressive improvement is to be expected; since its meetings are held so seldom and for so short a period, that but little can be done to increase the stock of medical information, at least in proportion to the inconvenience and expense attendant on its proceedings; since its powers and privileges are in many cases injurious, and indeed in some directly opposed to those of the county medical societies (particularly those of the county of Albany), and the committee do not hesitate to say, hurtful to the interests of the profession at large.

From these considerations, where the further utility of the State Medical Society is certainly questionable, when the experience of six years has proved, that but little has been added by its members that is valuable or interesting in medicine, while the importance of the county societies appear to be proportionably neglected; the committee deem it their duty to propose the following amendments and alterations to be made in the law regulating the practice of physic and surgery:

1. That the Medical Society of the State of New York and that the power of examining students be vested in the county medical societies.

2. That in case any student applying for permission to practice physic and surgery, shall consider himself aggrieved by the decision of a county society he shall be allowed to appeal to a board of physicians elected from each medical society, and who shall be styled the board of phy-

sicians for the eastern, middle, western and southern districts, as the case may be. These physicians shall be elected annually, one from each society; and their powers shall be exclusively confined to the examination of students who consider themselves aggrieved. That a number not less than four shall constitute a quorum who shall meet at such place as a majority may determine. Every student to pay ten dollars for the examination; which sum shall be used to defray, as much as may be, the expenses of the board.

3. That provision be made by law, directing the respective county medical societies to invest that part of their funds which arises from fees for the admission of gentlemen to the practice of physic and surgery, exclusively in the purchase of medical books or surgical instruments for the use of their members.

4. That no medical society shall proceed to the examination of persons offering for admission to the practice of physic and surgery, except (in addition to their having studied three years with a physician) they produce a certificate or diploma of having attended at least one course of lectures at some of the medical institutions in the United States, or foreign countries.

5. That it shall be the duty of the treasurer of each medical society, to procure, by letter or otherwise, at every quarterly meeting, a certified copy from the clerk of the county in which he resides, of the names of those persons who have deposited their licenses to practice in his office, and in case there are individuals who, to the treasurer's knowledge, are practicing without having complied with the provisions of the act, he shall prosecute the delinquent according to law, without having respect to reports of these persons being authorized to practice.

6. That in all cases, where persons from neighboring states, or from Europe, have commenced the practice of physic and surgery in this state since the passage of the



amendments to the act, in the session of 1811-12, as well as hereafter, it shall be enjoined on every medical society to demand at their regular meetings by a summons, signed by their President, an exhibition of the certificate or diploma under which said persons practice; and in case the individual does not present one within a reasonable time after being regularly notified, or exhibits one that is deemed unsatisfactory, he shall be prosecuted, if he practices for fee or reward, by the treasurer, in the name of the society, according to the provisions of the act.

To effect the above amendments and alterations, the committee respectfully submit the following resolutions to the Society:

*Resolved*, 1. That a committee be appointed to prepare a petition to be presented to the legislature at their ensuing session, requesting them to make the above alterations in the act regulating the practice of physic and surgery.

*Resolved*, 2. That a circular be immediately addressed to the respective county medical societies, stating to them the intentions of this Society and requesting them to join in the above petition.

JAMES LOW,  
T. ROMEYN BECK.

October 11th, 1813.

After undergoing discussion, the question was taken on the first article of the report, and a division being called for, it passed in the affirmative in the manner following:

Aff. Dr. Beck, Dr. Cheney, Dr. Hyde, Dr. Lathrop, Dr. Low, Dr. Wendell.

Neg. Dr. Johnson, Dr. Stearns, Dr. Van Deusen.

The 2d article was passed with the following amendment, viz.: striking out the whole of the article after the word "*appeal*" in the fourth line, and inserting "to any medical institution within this state for examination."

The 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th articles passed respectively without amendment.

The question on the resolutions was then taken, and they were passed.

The whole report was accepted; and in pursuance to the first resolution, Drs. Low, Beck, and Lathrop were appointed a committee to draught a petition to the legislature.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the above report, as amended, with preparatory remarks by the President, be the circular to be addressed to the respective county societies.

The amendment to the by-laws proposed by Dr. Low at the last stated meeting, was then discussed and, on a division, was rejected.

The by-law proposed by Dr. Stearns at the last stated meeting, was then considered, and on a division was rejected. A motion was made by Dr. Van Deusen to reconsider the proceedings of the Society in July last, respecting the election of officers at the anniversary meeting.

A division being called for, it passed in the negative in the manner following:

Aff. Dr. Johnson, Dr. Stearns, Dr. Van Deusen.

Neg. Dr. Beck, Dr. Low, Dr. Wendell.

The President decided in the negative. Drs. Cheney, Hyde, and Lathrop were excused from voting in consequence of their being unacquainted with the merits of the case.

Dr. Wendell read a dissertation on the *stimulant effects of cold*.

Dr. Beck was appointed to read a dissertation at the next stated meeting. Adjourned.

T. ROMEYN BECK, *Secretary*.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

Jan'y. 11th, 1814.

Pursuant to public notice, the Medical Society of the County of Albany met at the Capitol at 11 o'clock A. M.



Present, Dr. Eights, Dr. Wendell, Dr. Low, Dr. Lathrop, Dr. Stearns, Dr. Beck, Dr. Williams, Dr. Delamater, Dr. Van Deusen.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers, and the following gentlemen were elected to the respective offices affixed to their names.

Dr. Jonathan Eights, *President*.

Dr. Erastus Williams, *Vice-President*.

Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, *Secretary*.

Dr. Peter Wendell, *Treasurer*.

Dr. James Low, Dr. Erastus Williams, Dr. Oliver Lathrop, Dr. Peter Wendell, Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, *Censors*.

The following resolution was proposed and seconded:

*Resolved*, That although, in the opinion of this Society, its rights and privileges have been infringed by a late decision of the Medical Society of the State of New York, and in consequence that the said State Society has forfeited its claims to the respect in which it ought to be held, yet since by a law of this state, every medical society is entitled to send a delegate, therefore in order to prevent the rights and privileges of the Medical Society of the County of Albany from being totally neglected by the State Society, be it

*Resolved*, That the Medical Society of the County of Albany will elect a delegate to the Medical Society of the State of New York.

*Resolved*, That this resolution be added to the commission of the gentleman who shall be elected a delegate to the State Society.

A division being called for on the above resolution, it passed in the affirmative in manner following:

Aff. Dr. Low, Dr. Eights, Dr. Wendell, Dr. Beck, Dr. Delamater. Neg. Dr. Stearns, Dr. Van Deusen.

Drs. Williams and Lathrop were excused from voting.

Dr. James Low was elected delegate to the Medical Society of the State of New York.

A communication from the Medical Society of Westchester county was read, stating their Cordial approbation of the alteration proposed by this Society in the act regulating the practice of physic and surgery, and instructing their delegate to the Medical Society of the State of New York to coöperate with the Albany Medical Society by all honorable means to effect the same.

The committee, appointed to draught a petition to the legislature, on the subject of the projected alterations in the act regulating the practice of physic and surgery, reported that by the advice of several distinguished legal characters, they had prepared a bill to the above effect, comprehending the alterations desired, and that this bill would be presented to the legislature by way of petition.

Mr. Moses Kidder from the county of Hillsborough, N. H., made application to be examined on physic and surgery, and the Censors were directed to examine him as soon as possible.

The following amendment to the by-laws was proposed and seconded. *Resolved*, That sec. 5th, art. 2d, of the by-laws be amended so as to read as follows.

Candidates presenting themselves for examination shall notify their intention to the President in writing, and the Censors shall proceed, as soon as possible thereafter, to their examination, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Society to give every member resident within the city at least one day's notice of such examination.

The Treasurer reports that there was at present in the funds of the Society \$36.25, and \$7.50, due.

Dr. Van Deusen was at his own request dismissed from the Society.

Dr. Eights was appointed to read a dissertation at the next stated meeting. Adjourned.

T. ROMEYN BECK, *Secretary*.

Albany, April 12th, 1814.

The Society met pursuant to public notice. Present, Dr. Eights, Dr. Low, Dr. Stearns, Dr. Wendell, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Beck.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The amendment to the by-laws proposed at the last meeting was adopted in the following words.

“Candidates presenting themselves for examination shall notify their intention in writing to the President, and the Censors shall proceed as soon as possible thereafter to their examination, and it shall be optional with any member of the Society to attend such examination.”

A letter from the Medical Society of the County of Seneca, was read, stating their agreement in the alterations in the “act for regulating the practice of physic and surgery,” proposed by this Society.

The committee appointed to present a petition to the legislature, reported that in consequence of the State Medical Society adopting several important amendments proposed by the Society, they had concluded it impolitic to present the petition at the present session.

The following amendment to the by-laws was proposed and seconded.

*Resolved*, That sec. 6th, art. 4th, be amended in the following manner, so that the last clause shall read thus:

“Any member who shall hold professional correspondence, or give counsel with such person or persons so expelled, shall be subject to the same penalty.”

*Resolved*, That Drs. Beck, Stearns, and Wendell, be a committee to inquire what alterations are proper to be made in the by-laws of the Society, and that they report at the next stated meeting.

Dr. Hyde was appointed to read a dissertation at the next stated meeting. Adjourned.

T. ROMEYN BECK, *Secretary*.

Albany, July 12th, 1814.

A quorum not appearing, the Society adjourned.

Albany, Oct. 10th, 1814.

A quorum not appearing, the Society adjourned.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

Albany, Jany. 10th, 1815.

A quorum not appearing, the Society adjourned.

No quorum appeared at the quarterly meetings of the Medical Society during the year 1815.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

Jany. 9th, 1816.

The Society met, pursuant to public notice. Present, Dr. Williams, V. P., Dr. Stearns, Dr. Wendell, Dr. Beck, and Dr. Wing, a member of the Med. Soc. of Columbia County.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Platt Williams of Albany, and Dr. Moses Brownell of Berne, having been duly proposed, were unanimously elected members of the Society.

*Resolved*, That all debts at present due to the Society by its members, be and they are hereby remitted in full until the 1st of January, 1816.

The Treasurer reported that there remained in his hands of unexpended moneys, the sum of twelve dollars and fifty cents. The report was accepted. Adjourned until half past five P. M.

Half past five P. M.

Present, Dr. Erastus Williams, Dr. Wendell, Dr. Wing, Dr. P. Williams, Dr. Beck, Dr. Stearns.

Dr. Stearns, from the committee appointed for that purpose, reported that in their opinion, the 1st article of the sixth section, and the latter clause of the fourth article of

the same section, being all the words after the word "*expulsion*," should be expunged; whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the above report be accepted.

Dr. Stearns from the same committee, reported that in their opinion the 1st article of the first section of the by-laws should be altered, by striking out all the words, after the word "*business*;" whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the said report be accepted.

The Society thereupon proceeded to the election of officers, when the following gentlemen were duly elected to the offices affixed to their names.

Dr. Jonathan Eights, *President*.

Dr. John Stearns, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Peter Wendell, *Secretary*.

Dr. Joel A. Wing, *Treasurer*.

Dr. John Stearns, Dr. James Low, Dr. Erastus Williams, Dr. Platt Williams, Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, *Censors*.

It having been intimated to the Society, that Dr. Low has resigned his seat as delegate to the Medical Society of the State of New York, it was thereupon,

*Resolved*, That in case such be the fact, Dr. Beck be and he is hereby appointed delegate to the Medical Society of the State of New York.

The following resolution from the Society for the promotion of useful arts, was presented by the Secretary.

In Society, Dec. 12th, 1815.

*Resolved*, That the Medical Society of the County of Albany be and it is hereby allowed to use the chambers of this Society for their meetings, provided they do not interfere with those of this body, and that the Rec. Secretary furnish the President with a copy of this resolution.

(A copy.)

T. R. BECK, *Rec. Secretary*.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to address a



circular letter to the practicing physicians in the county of Albany, requesting their attention to the utility of the Medical Society, and inviting their attendance.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Stearns and Wing be the committee for that purpose.

Adjourned.

Albany, April 9th, 1816.

The Society met pursuant to public notice. Present, Dr. Beck, Dr. Eights, Dr. Low, Dr. Wing, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Wendell.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The President informed the Society that Doctor Israel Dey had been examined since our last meeting, and permitted to practice.

Dr. Beck read an essay on infanticide.

Dr. Low gave notice that he would at the next meeting of the Society read to them an account of a female patient that had been laboring under extreme paralysis of the bladder.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to address a circular to the presidents of the several county medical societies throughout the state relative to the attendance of students on medical lectures.

*Resolved*, That Doctors Low, Beck, and Wing be a committee for that purpose.

Adjourned.

Albany, July 9th.

A quorum not appearing the Society adjourned.

Albany, October 8th, 1816.

The Society met pursuant to public notice. Present, Drs. Eights, Stearns, Beck, Johnson, Wing, and Wendell.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The following resolution was offered and seconded.

*Resolved*, That — be a committee to call upon the clerk of the county and ascertain the names of the medical gen-

tlemen whose diplomas have been registered in his office since the passing of the law of 1813 regulating the practice of physic and surgery.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Beck and Wing be this committee.

Dr. Stearns proposed Drs. Vought,\* Veits, and Freeman as members of this Society.

The President proposed Mr. Foster from Vermont for examination.

Dr. Beck proposed Doctor Brownell of this city as a member of this Society.

*Resolved*, That the Society adjourn until the 4th Tuesday of this month at three o'clock P. M.

Adjourned.

Albany, October 22d, 1816.

The Society met pursuant to adjournment.

Doctor Wing, from the committee appointed to examine the records in the office of the clerk of this county relative to diplomas, or licenses, submitted the clerk's report, which is as follows:

City and county of Albany, clerk's office.

I do certify that upon diligent search in said office it appeared that Israel Dey, did, on the 21st day of February, in the year 1816, file in said office a certificate authorizing him to practice physic and surgery. That on the 10th day of October, 1816, George Upfold did file a copy of a diploma authorizing him to practice physic and surgery. That on the 15th day of October, 1816, Samuel Freeman did file a copy of a diploma authorizing him to practice physic and surgery. And that on the 17th day of October, 1816, Richmond Brownell did file a copy of his diploma authorizing him to practice physic and surgery, and that there appeared to be no other certificates or copies

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\* Dr. Vought seems never to have met with the Society, and no knowledge can now be gained of him. His residence in the city or county must have been brief.

of diplomas on file of the same import since April 10th, 1813.

Given under my hands this 19th day of October, 1816.

HORATIO MERCHANT, *Dep. Clerk.*

Doctors Brownell,\* Freeman, and Upfold,† were admitted members of this Society. The following resolution was offered and carried unanimously.

*Resolved*, That the President of this Society request the overseer of the poor of this city to present according to law such persons as are practicing physic in this county, whose certificates or diplomas (if any they have) are not filed in the clerk's office of this county.

Adjourned.

PETER WENDELL, *Secretary.*

*Anniversary Meeting.*

Jany. 14th, 1817.

Pursuant to public notice the Society met at the Capitol at 11 o'clock A. M. Present, Dr. Stearns, Dr. Brownell, Dr. Eights, Dr. Upfold, Dr. Low, Dr. Williams, Dr. Wing, Dr. Wendell.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers and the following gentlemen were elected to the respective offices affixed to their names.

Dr. John Stearns, *President.*

Dr. James Low, *Vice-President.*

Dr. Peter Wendell, *Secretary.*

Dr. Joel A. Wing, *Treasurer.*

Doctors Low, Wendell, Beck, P. Williams, Wing, *Censors.*

Doctor Jonathan Eights not having been reëlected President, was at his own request dismissed from this Society.

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\* Richmond Brownell is a brother to the Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Brownell of Connecticut, and now resides at Providence, R. I., at an advanced age.

† Dr. George Upfold afterwards studied theology, and became a candidate for Holy Orders, and is now the Rt. Rev. Bishop Upfold of Indiana.

The Treasurer reported that there remained in his hands the sum of five dollars, twenty-five cents of unappropriated moneys, which report was accepted.

The following resolution was offered and agreed to.

*Resolved*, That Doctors Beck and Wing be a committee to draught a petition to be presented to the Hon. Legislature relative to the amendment contemplated by this Society to the act regulating the practice of physic and surgery.

Adjourned.

PETER WENDELL, *Secretary*.

*Resolved*, That Doctors Low and Wing be a committee to present at the next meeting of this Society a report relative to medical consultation fees, collections, &c.

Albany, April 8th, 1817.

A quorum not being present the members adjourned.

Albany, July 8th, 1817.

The Society met pursuant to public notice.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Doctor Thos. J. Gibbons was unanimously elected a member of this Society.

Doctor Low as chairman of the committee appointed to draught a code of medical police for this city reported (in part) which was accepted.

*Resolved*, That the above committee be authorized to prepare the report on medical police complete, and when the same is done that they be requested to present the same to the several physicians of this city for their signatures.

Adjourned.

PETER WENDELL, *Secretary*.

October 14th, 1817.

The Society met pursuant to public notice. Present. Doctors Stearns, Wendell, Beck, Low, Wing.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.



Doctor Low, as chairman, appointed to report a code of medical police for this Society, reported that after maturely reflecting on the subject, he as chairman of that committee declined having any further agency in the business.

*Resolved*, That the report be accepted.

Adjourned.

PETER WENDELL *Secretary*.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

Jany. 13th, 1818.

Present, Doctors Stearns, Williams, Beck, Wendell, P. Williams, Wing, Upfold.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Society then proceeded to the choice of officers for the ensuing year.

Upon canvassing the ballots the following gentlemen were elected to the offices affixed to their respective names, viz:

Dr. John Stearns, *President*.

Dr. James Low, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Peter Wendell, *Secretary*.

Dr. J. A. Wing, *Treasurer*.

Dr. James Low, Peter Wendell, T. Romeyn Beck, Platt Williams, Erastus Williams, *Censors*.

Doctor Wendell was elected delegate to the State Medical Society.

*Resolved*, That this Society still consider the amendment proposed by them to the act regulating the practice of physic and surgery as all important to the respectability and usefulness of the profession, and that therefore the President and Secretary are authorized to sign a petition to that effect to be presented to the legislature as the act of this Society, in case they shall judge it expedient.

Adjourned.

PETER WENDELL, *Secretary*.

Albany, April 14th.

A quorum not appearing, the members adjourned.



Albany, July 14th, 1818.

The Society met pursuant to public notice.

The Secretary reports that since the last meeting of the Society, Lewis C. Beck, Charles Martin, and Wm. Chambers have been examined by the Censors and admitted to practice.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to examine the certificates filed in the clerk's office of this county by the physicians and surgeons agreeably to the law regulating the practice of physic and surgery, and if they can ascertain by such examination, or otherwise that any one practicing physic or surgery without being duly licensed, that they be directed to notify such practitioners of their delinquency, and to request them to file copies of their certificates as the law directs; and if they shall refuse or neglect to comply with their requisition within the time specified by the said committee or shall acknowledge that they have never received any such license to practice, it shall then be the duty of the said committee to publish the names of such illegal practitioners in the different papers of this city.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Beck, Wendell, Platt Williams, Erastus Williams, Hyde, and Johnson be that committee.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings be published.

Adjourned.

October, 1818.

The Society met at the Capitol, but a quorum not appearing, the members adjourned.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

January, 1819.

The Society met at the Capitol, agreeably to public notice, but a quorum not appearing, the members adjourned.

April 13th, 1819.

The Society met at the Capitol pursuant to public no-

tice, and admittance not being attainable to the rooms in which the Society usually met, they adjourned to the office of Doctor Joel A. Wing.

The Secretary not being present, Dr. Wing was chosen Secretary *pro tempore*.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Doctor Beck, from the committee appointed, in April, 1818, to examine the records in the county clerk's office respecting the filing of copies of licenses to practice physic and surgery agreeably to the statute of 1817-18, reported as follows:

"The committee appointed to examine the certificates, on file in the clerk's office by practitioners, report that all the physicians and surgeons within the city had filed copies of their licenses or diplomas, with the exception of Dr. Daniel James, who had filed a certificate of *membership* of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and Dr. De Garmo, who had filed a certificate of membership of the Washington County Medical Society; *neither* of which, however, in the opinion of the committee entitles them to practice."

*Resolved*, That the report be accepted, and that a committee be appointed to consult some counselor at law whether the above certificates are a sufficient license for practicing physic and surgery, and also that they ascertain whether a diploma from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at New York, without having studied physic and surgery three years, according to the statute, is legal.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Wm. Bay, T. R. Beck, and Platt Williams be that committee, and that they draw on the Treasurer for the expenses that may be incurred.

Doctor Caleb Woodward,\* of the city of Albany, having been proposed for a membership at a previous meeting of the Society, was balloted for and unanimously elected a member of this Society.

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\*Dr. Woodward's name is in the Directory for 1819, but found at no subsequent date. This is the only knowledge of him to be gained.

Dr. John Stearns gave notice that before the next meeting of the Society, he shall have removed from this county, and requested his dismission.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Stearns's resignation be accepted, and that the Secretary prepare and present to Dr. Stearns a *certificate of membership* before his departure.

Adjourned.

JOEL A. WING, *Secretary, pro tempore*.

Albany, May 11th, 1819.

A special meeting of the Society was called by the President, but a quorum not appearing, the members adjourned.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to *revise* the by-laws of this Society, in such manner as to make them conformable to the *late laws* of the state, "regulating the practice of physic and surgery," and that the committee report at the next stated meeting of the Society.

*Resolved*, That Drs. T. R. Beck, P. Williams, and J. A. Wing be the above committee.

[NOTE. The above resolutions were passed April 13th, 1819, and omitted by mistake.]

Albany, July 13th, 1819.

The Society met pursuant to public notice. Present, Drs. James Low, Wm. Bay, Jont. Eights, Platt Williams, and J. A. Wing.

Dr. Ashbel Webster, having been proposed at a previous meeting of the Society, was balloted for and unanimously elected a member. Dr. William Humphrey was proposed by Dr. J. Eights for membership. Dr. Charles Martin was proposed in the same manner, by Dr. Low. Dr. John James also applied to the President, requesting that he be admitted a member of this Society. On this last there was some discussion but no decision was made.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Low, Wing, and Eights be added to

the committee appointed April 13th, 1819, to consult some counselor at law, &c.

In October 1819, no meeting of the Society was held.

Albany, Nov. 18th, 1819.

The Society met at the office of Joel A. Wing. Present, Jas. Low, Wm. Bay, Jonathan Eights, Wm. Humphrey, Joel A. Wing, and Peter Wendell.

The President *pro tem.*, Doctor Low, stated that the object of the meeting was to ascertain the feelings and determination of the members relative to the case of De Garmo.

After some desultory conversation, the following resolution was agreed to :

*Resolved*, That the President *pro tem.* be requested to direct S. S. Lush, Esq., to defend this Society in the case of the Society *versus* De Garmo.

After some conversation relative to the funds of the Society, it was unanimously agreed that all debts due to this Society from members previous to April last, would be considered as paid, in order that the members should be placed on footing with all the practicing physicians in the county.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary and Treasurer adopt a mode for the collection of funds due to the Society agreeably to statutes.

Adjourned.

PETER WENDELL, *Secretary*.

### *Anniversary Meeting.*

January 11th, 1820.

The Society met at the Capitol agreeably to previous notice. A quorum not appearing, the members adjourned.

January 12th.

The Society met in their chamber at 8 o'clock P. M. Present, James Low, Wm. Bay, Joel A. Wing, Platt Williams, Ashbel Webster, William Humphrey, and Peter Wendell.



*Resolved*, That the Society proceed to make choice of a President, that office being vacated by the removal by Doctor John Stearns to the city of New York. Upon canvassing the votes it appeared that James Low was unanimously elected.

*Resolved*, That we proceed to the choice of a Vice-President, that office being vacated in consequence of the election of Doctor James Low as President. Upon canvassing the votes it appeared that Doctor Wm. Bay was unanimously elected Vice-President.

*Resolved*, That the Society make choice of a Librarian. Upon canvassing the votes it appeared that Platt Williams was unanimously elected as Librarian.

Doctor John James and Doctor Roger Viets, having been proposed as members of this Society at some previous meeting, were balloted for and unanimously elected.

The Treasurer reports that there remained in the treasury on the 10th inst., three dollars and thirty-seven cents, and that all demands against this Society were canceled, excepting a bill for printing in favor of Messrs. Webster and Skinners.

Adjourned.

PETER WENDELL, *Secretary*.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

January 9th, 1821.

The Society met in their chamber agreeably to statute. Present, Doctors Eights, Bay, Beck, Brownell, Humphrey, Webster, and Wendell. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The next business in order was the election of officers, and first of President; upon canvassing the ballots, it appeared that

Dr. Jonathan Eights was elected *President*.

Dr. William Bay, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Peter Wendell, *Secretary*.

Dr. Joel A. Wing, *Treasurer*.

Drs. Eights, Beck, P. Williams, E. Williams, Wing, *Censors*.



Dr. Platt Williams was elected Librarian.

It appearing from the report of the Treasurer that there is the sum of fifteen dollars paid into the Treasury for the annual tax directed by law.

*Resolved*, That——be a committee to report to this Society what books it would be proper to purchase with the above sum.

*Resolved*, That Doctors Wendell, Beck, and Humphrey be that committee.

*Resolved*, That the committee likewise devise a plan for the purpose of distributing the books.

*Resolved*, That Doctors Beck and Wing report at our next meeting the expense of publishing one hundred copies of our by-laws as amended.

Doctors Van O Linda, Hallenbeck, and Spalding were admitted as members of the Society.

Adjourned to meet on the 13th inst.

PETER WENDELL, *Secretary*.

January 13th, 1821.

The Society met pursuant to adjournment. Doctor Barent P. Staats reported himself, and was admitted as a member.

Doctor Beck, from the committee appointed on the subject of a library, reported; That in the opinion of the committee it would be proper to purchase the following books with the funds now in the hands of the Society and also with such as may be received by the Treasurer during the current year. Viz:

New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Price,                                 | \$2.25 |
| Chapman's Medical Journal,             | 2.00   |
| Philadelphia Medical Recorder,         | 8.00   |
| New York Medical Repository,           | 3.00   |
| Edinburg Medical and Surgical Journal, | 6.00   |

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Total, \$21.25

All of the above to commence with the first numbers of a volume as near to the present time as may be attainable.

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Thompson's Lectures on Inflammation,             | \$3.50   |
| Orfile on Poisons,                               | 1.00     |
| Duncan on Consumption,                           | 87½      |
| Pemberton, on Diseases of the Abdominal Viscera, | 1.50     |
| Caldwell's Cullen Practice,                      | 6.50     |
| Barton's Cullen Practice Materia Medica,         | 5.00     |
| Batterman's Synopsis,                            | 2.75     |
| <hr/>  |          |
| Total,   | \$21.12½ |

The committee propose the following regulations for the library. That all persons who have paid the annual tax be entitled to the use of the library.

Second. No more than a single volume or pamphlet to be taken by a person at the same time.

Third. Members not residents within the city shall be allowed to retain a book or pamphlet six weeks, and all others a fortnight.

Fourth. A fine of two cents per day shall be paid for every day that a book is detained beyond the above time.

Fifth. All damage done to books or pamphlets shall be assessed by the Librarian, and the amount collected from the person who held the book during the time it received the injury.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer be ordered to purchase the above works as expeditiously as the funds in his hands will admit.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer purchase the three first volumes of the Medical Recorder out of any funds in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Adjourned.

PETER WENDELL, *Secretary*.

April 9th, 1821.

The Medical Society met at the Capitol pursuant to adjournment.

Doctor Clement of Coyemans, made application to the Society in writing stating his wish to become a member.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Clement be admitted a member.

Doctors C. C. Yates and S. S. Treat were elected members by request.

The Secretary reported that since the last meeting of the Society, Joseph H. Elmore, and Abraham Hogeboom had been examined and admitted to practice according to law.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary make out a roll of all the members of this Society, and that the same be called at the opening of every meeting of the Society and that every non-attending member be fined according to law.

Adjourned.

PETER WENDELL, *Secretary*.

July 10th, 1821.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The roll being called, Drs. Eights, Bay, Wendell, Spalding, Van OLinda, and Humphrey were present.

And Doctors Beck, E. Williams, P. Williams, Yates, Brownell, Wing, Johnson, Webster, Low, Treat, John James, Ch. Martin, Staats, Viets, Hallenbake, Clement, Hyde, absent, and were each fined twenty-five cents agreeably to law. The Society after some desultory conversation on Medical cases,

Adjourned.

PETER WENDELL, *Secretary*.

October 9th, 1821.

A quorum not appearing, there was from necessity no meeting of the Society.

PETER WENDELL, *Secretary*.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

Albany, Jany. 8th, 1822.

The Society met pursuant to statute. All the members present excepting Doctors Beck, Hyde, Johnson, Low,

John James, Clement, Martin, and Brownell. The Secretary reported that Hazael Kane, Richard Bury, Rufus Ingersoll, and Valentine Dennick had been examined by the Censors, and admitted to practice since the last meeting of the Society, the moneys arising from the same were paid to the Treasurer, Doctor Wing.

The President presented a bill of costs from D. L. Van Der Heyden amounting to \$25, which was ordered to be paid.

*Resolved*, That the Society now proceed to the election of officers for the ensuing year, and first of President.

Dr. C. C. Yates was elected *President*.

Dr. Wm. Bay, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Wm. Humphrey, *Secretary*.

Dr. Joel A. Wing, *Treasurer*.

Dr. Platt Williams, *Librarian*.

Doctors Erastus Williams, Platt Williams, Jonathan Eights, Joel A. Wing, and Saml. S. Treat, *Censors*.

Doctor Jonathan Eights was elected Delegate to the State Medical Society.

The committee for the purchase of books were continued in operation for the ensuing year.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer's report be entered on the minutes.

The Treasurer of the Albany County Medical Society, respectfully reports, that at the annual meeting of the Society in January 1820 there remained in the treasury \$2.75.

A resolution was then passed that all debts due from individuals should be remitted and the accounts should begin *de novo*. It was further resolved that the entire amount of taxes (authorized by the law of 1819) should be appropriated to the purchase of books, &c., for the benefit of said Society from that time to the present. The following bills have been presented for payment and have been discharged, viz. :

Mr. Hochstrasser's bill as messenger in 1820, one dollar (see bill) \$1.00.

Jesse Buel's bill for advertising in February, 1820, (see bill,) \$1.75.

Judge R. S. Treat's bill (see bill) \$6.30.

Webster & Skinners' bill for advertising in 1819 (see bill) \$13.62½.

Joel A. Wing's bill (for postage in 1820) 75.

Webster & Skinners' bill for printing by-laws in 1821 (see bill) \$6.00.

Henry Hochstrasser's bill for door keeping in 1821 (see bill) \$1.00. In all \$30.41½.

From this amount deduct the sum remaining in the treasury in 1820, \$2.37½, and \$10 received from the Secretary in April last, there remains a balance due from the Society of \$18.05.

There has this day, Jany. 8th, 1822, been received from the Secretary \$20, which pays the debt due from the Society to the Treasurer and leaves a balance of \$1.95 in the treasury.

The whole amount of taxes collected by the Treasurer since January 1820 is sixty dollars (\$60.00) of which \$54 has been collected since the last anniversary meeting. The Treasurer is happy to state that there remains but six delinquents in the county; of which two are in the city and four in the country towns.

It was not deemed proper to commence suits against these, presuming that they will pay their arrears with promptitude as soon as they are aware of the manner in which the moneys thus collected are appropriated, and of the beneficial results which cannot fail to attend. Out of the above sum of \$60, the following books have been purchased and placed in the hands of the Librarian for the use of the members of the Society, viz.: Thompson's Lectures on Inflammation, 1 vol. Orfile on Poisons, 1 vol. Duncan on Consumption, 1 vol. Pemberton on Diseases of the Abdominal Viscera, 1 vol. Caldwell's Cullen Practice, 2



vols. Barton's Cullen's Materia Medica, 2 vols. Batterman's Synopsis, 1 vol. Accum on the Adulteration of Food, 1 vol. New York Medical Repository, 5 nos. Philadelphia Medical Recorder, 4 nos. Chapman's Med. and Surgery, 4 nos., and 1 Blank Book, in all (vols. and nos.) 29 books.

On all the medical works received in numbers, one year's subscription has been paid, with the exception of the Medical Recorder, which has been omitted by mistake. I was directed by the Society to subscribe for, and procure the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, but I have not been able to procure it. It will be perceived by the accompanying bills and receipts that \$29.25 only has been paid for the above books; add to this \$2.41 paid as postage on the numbers as they have been received, and there will remain now in the treasury of the fund exclusively appropriated to the purchase of books \$28.34, besides a tax now due of one dollar each on 44 practicing physicians; and \$11 not yet collected of the tax of 1820 and 21: thus making our fund for the purchase of books for the ensuing year at a moderate computation something more than sixty dollars.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. A. WING, *Treasurer.*

A substitute to the 3d Art. of 3d Sect. of the by-laws was read and approved, viz: in case any member of this Society shall fail to attend the regular state meetings of the same, he shall forfeit and pay to the Treasurer for the use of said Society, if a resident of the city, 50 cents; those of the country 25 cents.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary furnish the Treasurer with a list of the names of all the members who have been fined at each meeting, within two weeks after such meeting for collection.

Dr. Valentine Dennick of the town of Bethlehem was then proposed by Dr. J. Eights for a membership.

Adjourned.

WILLIAM HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

At an extra meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, held Feb. 4th, 1822, it was resolved that the members of this Society wear crape on the left arm for the space of thirty days as a tribute of respect to the memory of their late deceased fellow member, Dr. James Low.

WILLIAM HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

At a special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society held pursuant to notice at the Capitol, on Monday the 18th of March, 1822. Present, Drs. Yates, Bay, Eights, Wendell, Beck, Staats, and Viets.

A copy of the *New York Evening Post* of the 13th of March instant, was presented, and the attention of the Society was directed to the remonstrance of sundry physicians in the city of New York against the medical bill now pending before the legislature published in said paper. The following sentence it was stated demanded their attention.

In one society (meaning a county medical one) it was seriously debated whether the money thus raised by the dollar tax should not be appropriated to the purchase of liquor.

A letter from a physician in the city of New York, was then presented and read, stating that on inquiry he had ascertained that the Society referred to above, was the Albany County Medical Society, and that the authority for this charge was Dr. Willard. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That this Society view with contempt and indignation, the calumny said to be propagated against it by a certain Dr. Willard, whom it is presumed is Moses Willard late of this city.

*Resolved*, That the funds of this Society have ever been faithfully applied from year to year, in compliance with

the law, to the purchase of books, and that no member of this Society has ever heard that so unwise and ridiculous a proposition was ever contemplated or spoken of as is stated in the *New York Evening Post*.

*Resolved*, That the insinuation contained in said remonstrance against the Albany County Medical Society is false and malicious, totally destitute of the shadow of truth, and disgraceful to the author and the propagators of it.

*Resolved*, That this Society highly approve of the medical bill introduced into the legislature by Mr. Verplanck, and that the President and Secretary be directed to communicate to him a copy of this resolution.

The above resolutions having been unanimously adopted the Society adjourned.

WILLIAM HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

April 9th, 1822.

The Society met pursuant to public notice. The roll being called, Drs. Eights, E. Williams, Wing, Humphrey, and Webster were present, and Drs. Yates, Bay, Wendell, Beck, P. Williams, Spalding, Van O Linda, Johnson, Hyde, John James, Brownell, Clement, Treat, Hallenbake, Staats, and Viets were absent.

The President and Vice-President being absent, Dr. E. Williams was called to the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. J. Eights presented three papers from Robert W. Harvey of this county, requesting information concerning the practice of physic and surgery, which were referred to the Board of Censors.

Dr. Valentine Dennick\* having been proposed at a previous meeting was balloted for, and unanimously elected a member.

Adjourned.

WILLIAM HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

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\*Dr. Dennick practiced in Bethlehem until his death, but there are no dates to be found by which to fix the time of that event, or that of his birth.

July 9th, 1822.

The Society met pursuant to public notice. The roll being called, Drs. Eights, Spalding, Wing, Staats, Viets, Van OLinda, and Humphrey were present, and all the rest were absent. The President and Vice-President being absent, Dr. Eights was elected President *pro tem*.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

No business coming before the Society they adjourned.

WM. HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

October 8th, 1822.

The Society met pursuant to public notice. The roll being called, Drs. Bay, Eights, Spalding, Viets, Staats, Wing, and Humphrey were present. Drs. Wendell, Beck, P. Williams, Van OLinda, E. Williams, Johnson, Webster, Hyde, Brownell, Clement, Treat, Hallenbake, and Dennick were absent. The President being absent the Vice-President took the chair.

Dr. Eights offered the following resolution.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Society be directed to cause 200 notices to be printed of the quarterly meetings of the Society, and that he be directed to serve each member residing in the city with one of said notices previous to each meeting of the Society, and the expense attending the same be paid by the city members.

The Society after making a few desultory remarks on medical cases adjourned.

WM. HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

#### *Anniversary Meeting.*

Albany, Jan'y. 14th, 1823.

The Society met pursuant to statute. The roll being called, Drs. Bay, Wendell, Wing, Eights, P. Williams, Spalding, Van OLinda, Treat, Staats, Viets and Humphrey were present. Doctors Beck, Hyde, E. Williams, Johnson, Brownell, Clement, Hallenbake, and Dennick were ab-

sent. The President being absent, the Vice-President took the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Drs. Alden March, and Lewis C. Beck of this city were proposed (by Dr. J. A. Wing) as members of this Society, who being duly balloted for, were unanimously elected.

The Treasurer's report was read and a committee appointed, consisting of Drs. Eights, Wendell and March to examine it and report at the next quarterly meeting.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

Dr. William Bay was elected *President*.

Dr. Jonathan Eights, *Vice-President*.

Dr. William Humphrey, *Secretary*.

Dr. Joel A. Wing, *Treasurer*.

Dr. Platt Williams, *Librarian*.

Drs. Jonathan Eights, Erastus Williams, Platt Williams, Saml. S. Treat, and Joel A. Wing, *Censors*.

Dr. Wing offered the following resolution and was accepted.

*Resolved*, That the Librarian be instructed to cause the books now unbound in his hands, to be bound in a plain and substantial manner, and send the bill to the Treasurer for payment, and that he be also instructed to procure a plain and substantial book case, for the purpose of securing the library in a more effectual manner, this also to be paid out of the library fund.

The Society adjourned.

WILLIAM HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

April 8th, 1823.

The Society met pursuant to public notice. The roll being called Drs. Beck, Brownell, Clement, Dennick, Hallenbake, Hyde, Johnson, Spalding, Van O'Linda, Web-



ster, Wendell Wing, and E. Williams were absent. Present, Drs. Bay, Eights, L. C. Beck, March, Staats, Treat, Viets, P. Williams, and Humphrey.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's report not being ready were granted leave to report at the next quarterly meeting.

By request of Dr. T. Romeyn Beck it was resolved that he be exonerated from the fines attending this Society.

Dr. Eights gave notice that he would at the next quarterly meeting read a communication on some medical subject.

Adjourned.

W. HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

The Secretary reports that since the last meeting of the Society, Joseph Koon has been examined by the Censors and admitted to practice. The money arising from the same was paid to the Treasurer, Dr. Wing.

July 8th, 1823.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The roll being called Drs. Bay, L. C. Beck, March, Staats, Treat, Viets, Van O'Linda, Wendell, Wing, and Humphrey were present. Absent, Drs. Eights, Brownell, Clement, Dennick, Hallenbake, Hyde, Johnson, James, Spalding, Webster, E. Williams, and P. Williams.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

A letter from Horatio Gates Spafford being read it was referred to a committee consisting of Drs. Wendell, March, and Beck.

Dr. John W. Bay of this city being proposed (by Dr. Treat) as a member of this Society, on being duly balloted for was unanimously elected.

The following resolution was laid before the Society and passed.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer forthwith notify those practicing physicians, who are delinquent to this Society for taxes and fines, of the amount of such fines and taxes, and unless they are paid to the Treasurer, on or before the 2d Tuesday of October next, the Treasurer shall then proceed to collect the above fines and taxes by law.

The Medical Ethics of the State Medical Society being read, the following resolution was offered.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed, consisting of Drs. Wendell, Beck, and Wing, to examine the code of Medical Ethics, submitted to this Society from the State Medical Society, and report to the Society at their next meeting any objections or alterations which in their opinion may be necessary.

Dr. March read a communication on the morbid pelvic viscera of a female subject who died of an affection of the organs of generation. It was moved and seconded that the communication be deposited in the archives of the Society, which was done accordingly.

Adjourned.

WM. HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

October 14th, 1823.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The roll being called Drs. Eights, L. C. Beck, March, Spalding, Staats, Treat, Viets, Van OLinda, Wendell, P. Williams, J. W. Bay, and Humphrey, were present. Absent, Drs. W. Bay, Brownell, Clement, Dennick, Hallenbake, Hyde, Johnson, James, Webster, E. Williams, and Wing.

The President and Vice-President being absent, Dr. Spalding was elected President *pro tem*.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The committee appointed to examine the code of Medical Ethics adopted by the State Medical Society beg leave to state, that they have had the same under consideration

and ask for further time to make their report, which was done accordingly.

The following amendment to the first article, of the 5th section, was laid before the Society, viz: every candidate receiving a diploma, shall pay a fee to the Treasurer of this Society for its use not less than five dollars; and the sum of two dollars to each of the censors previous to the examination.

The Society having some conversation on the act to incorporate medical societies for the purpose of regulating the practice of physic and surgery, passed April 20th, 1818, by the legislature of the state of New York, Dr. Eights was appointed to wait upon the attorney general and receive his opinion concerning that act and report at the next meeting.

Adjourned.

WM. HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

The Secretary reports that since the last meeting of the Society, Palmer C. Dorr has been examined by the Censors and admitted to practice physic and surgery. The money received for a diploma I have paid to the Treasurer, Dr. Wing.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

Albany, Jany. 13th, 1824.

The Society met pursuant to notices. The roll being called, Drs. W. Bay, Eights, L. C. Beck, Clement, James, March, Spalding, Staats, Treat, Viets, Van O Linda, Webster, Wendell, Wing, J. W. Bay, and Humphrey, were present. Drs. Brownell, Dennick, Hallenbake, Hyde, Johnson, E. Williams, and P. Williams were absent.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The President having read a list of practicing physicians who had filed certificates, it was referred to the Treasurer, Dr. Wing.

The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's report made at the last anniversary meeting, report that they have examined the same and find it correct and corresponding with the vouchers.

J. EIGHTS, *Chairman.*

The committee appointed to obtain the opinion of the attorney general on the act regulating the practice of physic and surgery, reports that he has not been able to obtain the same.

The committee appointed to examine the system of Medical Ethics adopted by the State Medical Society beg leave to report, that in their opinion it is calculated to increase the dignity and honor of the profession, and as such they would recommend it to be adopted by the Society. All which is respectfully submitted.

P. WENDELL, *Chairman.*

- The Society concurred in the above report. A motion was then made and carried that the Secretary furnish the Delegate with a copy of the above resolution, and that he lay it before the State Medical Society.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to publish as much of the code of Ethics just approved of by the Society, as they in their judgment may deem expedient for the good of the profession. Drs. Wendell, March, and Williams were appointed the committee.

The Treasurer's report being read, it was referred to a committee consisting of Drs. Eights, Wendell, and Wing.

Dr. L. C. Beck offered the Society the following preamble and resolution.

Whereas, By the 1st section of the act to amend an act entitled an act to incorporate medical societies for the purpose of regulating the practice of physic and surgery, it is made the duty of the person with whom a student of medicine shall commence his studies to file a certificate with



the President of the board to which he belongs, certifying that the person hath commenced his studies with him, and whereas, in consequence of a misunderstanding with regard to the time of the taking effect of this section, physicians have in many instances neglected to comply with its requisitions, and whereas the censors of county medical societies cannot license students when certificates have not been so filed, therefore,

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to draught a memorial to the legislature praying for the relief of those medical students whose certificates have not been filed according to the provision of the 1st section of the act above recited.

The following was offered as a substitute to the resolution by Dr. Wendell.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to solicit the State Medical Society to petition the legislature for an explanation on the above act.

The Society after a considerable conversation took the question on the substitute and rejected it. A division being called for, it was decided in the negative as follows:

For the neg. Drs. Beck, March, Treat, Staats, Viets, Van OLinda, Webster, Wing, and J. W. Bay. For the affirm. Drs. Eights, James, Clement, Spalding, and Wendell.

The question was then taken on the resolution and carried.

The President appointed Drs. Beck, March, and Webster as a committee.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

Dr. William Bay was elected *President*.

Dr. Jonathan Eights, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Wm. Humphrey, *Secretary*.

Dr. B. P. Staats, *Treasurer*.

Dr. P. Williams, *Librarian*.



Drs. Joel A. Wing, Alden March, John W. Bay, Saml. S. Treat, Lewis C. Beck, *Censors*.

An amendment to the by-laws proposed at the last meeting was adopted.

Drs. Freligh of the town of Watervliet was proposed by the President as a member of this Society.

*Resolved*, That Dr. A. S. Webster be exonerated from the fines attending the Society.

An account from Webster and Skinners was referred to the late Treasurer, Dr. Wing.

Adjourned.

WM. HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

The Secretary reports that since the last meeting of the Society Albert W. Ball has been examined by the Censors and admitted to practice. The money received for a diploma I have paid to the Treasurer, Dr. P. Staats.

April 13th, 1824.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The roll being called, Drs. W. Bay, Eights, L. C. Beck, March, Staats, Treat Viets, Van OLinda, Wendell, Wing, J. W. Bay, and Humphrey, were present. Drs. Brownell, Clement, Denick, Hyde, Johnson, James, Spalding, E. Williams, and P. Williams were absent.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The committee appointed on the Medical Ethics not being ready to report, the chairman made the following motion viz: that the Secretary purchase 40 copies of the Medical Ethics from the Secretary of the State Medical Society for the use of this Society.

A circular being laid before the Society from W. Hamersely M. D., New York, relative to the small pox, &c., it was referred to a committee of investigation consisting of Drs. Eights, Wendell, Williams, Wing, and Beck.

From a resolution of the State Society recommending to the different County societies, to appropriate a sum of

money for the promotion of medical science, therefore a motion was made and carried, that the Treasurer of this Society pay to the Treasurer of the State Medical Society the sum of five dollars annually for that purpose.

Dr. Freligh being proposed at a previous meeting for membership, was unanimously elected a member.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to examine into the state of the library and report at the next meeting. The purchasing committee were appointed consisting of Drs. Wendell, T. R. Beck, and Humphrey.

Society adjourned.

WM. HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

At an extra meeting of the Society held on May 5th, 1824. Present, Drs. W. Bay, Jon. Eights, Peter Wendell, Joel A. Wing, Barent P. Staats, Lewis C. Beck, John W. Bay, Roger Viets, John James, Saml. S. Treat, and W. Humphrey.

A communication from his honor the mayor relative to the existence of small pox in this city was read by the President; the Society after much conversation on the subject adopted the following resolution.

*Resolved*, Unanimously, that the Medical Society of the County of Albany, having full confidence in the efficacy of vaccination, recommend it to their fellow citizens as the best and the only reasonable means to be adopted for checking the progress of small pox.

July 13th, 1824.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The roll being called Drs. Eights, March, Spalding, Staats, Treat, Viets, Van OLinda, Wendell, Wing, and Humphrey were present. Absent, Drs. W. Bay, J. W. Bay, L. C. Beck, Brownell, Clement, Dennick, Hyde, Johnson, James, E. Williams, P. Williams, and Freligh.

The President being absent the Vice-President took the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The committee appointed on the circular from W. Hammersely M. D. relative to small pox, beg leave to state that they have had the same under consideration and ask for further time to make their report, which was granted accordingly.

Doctor Wendell, not knowing that he was chairman of the committee to examine the library, neglected to call them together; he therefore asked for further time to make their report, which was granted.

The Society then after a few desultory remarks, adjourned.

WILLIAM HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

October 12th, 1824.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The roll being called, Drs. Beck, March, Staats, Treat, Viets, Van O'Linda, Wing, J. W. Bay, and Humphrey were present, and Drs. W. Bay, Eights, Brownell, Clement, Dennick, Hyde, Johnson, James, Spalding, Wendell, E. Williams, P. Williams, and Freligh were absent.

The President and Vice-President being absent Doct. Wing was called to the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. R. Gansevoort was proposed by Dr. March as a member of this Society.

Dr. L. C. Beck read a communication characterizing a number of cases of small pox and varioloid diseases as occurred in this city during the present season.

The Society after making a few remarks adjourned.

WILLIAM HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

The Secretary reports that since the last meeting of the Society Peter B. Noxon has been examined by the Censors and admitted to practice. The money received for a diploma I have paid to the Treasurer, Doct. Staats.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

Jany. 11th, 1825.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The roll being called, Drs. W. Bay, Beck, James, March, Spalding, Staats, Treat, Viets, Van OLinda, Wendell, P. Williams, J. W. Bay, and Humphrey were present. Drs. Eights, Brownell, Clement, Dennick, Hyde, Johnson, E. Williams, Wing, and Frleigh were absent.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. R. Gansevoort being proposed at the last meeting, was unanimously elected a member of this Society.

The Treasurer's report being read, it was referred to a committee consisting of Drs. L. C. Beck, March, and James.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

Dr. William Bay was elected *President*.

Dr. Jonathan Eights, *Vice-President*.

Dr. William Humphrey, *Secretary*.

Dr. Peter Van OLinda, *Treasurer*.

Dr. Platt Williams, *Librarian*.

Drs. Joel A. Wing, Saml. S. Treat, Alden March, Lewis C. Beck, and John W. Bay, *Censors*.

Dr. Platt Williams, Delegate to the State Medical Society. Drs. P. Williams, L. C. Beck, and T. R. Beck were appointed a committee for the purchasing of books.

*Resolved*, That the Librarian be always a member of this committee.

Dr. Peter Wendell was at his own request dismissed from the Society.

Adjourned.

WILLIAM HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

The Secretary also reports that since the last meeting of the Society, John W. Hinkley and James M. Brown have been examined by the Censors and admitted to prac-



tice. The money received for their diplomas I have paid to the Treasurer, Dr. Van OLinda.

April 12th, 1825.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The roll being called, Drs. W. Bay, Eights, March, Staats, Treat, Viets, J. W. Bay, and Humphrey were present. Drs. Beck, Brownell, Clement, Dennick, Hyde, Johnson, James, Spalding, Van OLinda, E. Williams, P. Williams, Wing, Freligh, and Gansevoort were absent.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Society after having some conversation on the legal right of Dr. Thompson practicing in this city with vegetables, a committee was appointed consisting of Drs. Eights, Treat, and March to obtain as much information as possible on that subject and report at the next meeting.

Drs. Staats, Viets, and J. W. Bay were appointed a committee to add a clause to the law passed April 20th, 1818, to incorporate medical societies, which clause is intended to protect medical students who have neglected to file their certificates.

Drs. Eights, Wing, and T. R. Beck were appointed a committee to revise the by-laws.

Adjourned.

W. HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

The Secretary also reports that since the last meeting of the Society, James Hosford has been examined by the Censors and admitted to practice. The money received for a diploma I have paid to the Treasurer, Dr. Van OLinda.

July 12th, 1825.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The roll being called, Drs. W. Bay, March, Viets, Van OLinda, Wing, and Humphrey were present. Drs. Eights, Beck, Brownell, Clement, Dennick, Hyde, Johnson, James, Spalding, Staats, Treat, E. Williams, P. Williams, J. W. Bay, Freligh, and Gansevoort were absent.



The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. John W. Hinkley was proposed by Dr. Van OLinda as a member of this Society.

The Society having taken into consideration the propriety of Andrew Abel practicing physic and surgery in this city, thereupon the Society directed their President to transmit to him the following notice.

To Andrew Abel, Esq.:

It having appeared to the Medical Society of this County, that you have no license to practice physic or surgery or both in this state, and that you have not even deposited a copy of the license under which you profess to practice—This is therefore to give you notice, that unless you comply forthwith with the laws of this state in that particular, you will be held liable by the Medical Society of this county, to all the pains and penalties in such case provided, for any medical or surgical practice which you may hereafter attempt.

Adjourned.

WM. HUMPHREY, *Secretary.*

October 11th, 1825.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The roll being called, Drs. Wm. Bay, Eights, Beck, Staats, Viets, Van OLinda, and Humphrey were present. Drs. Brownell, Clement, Dennick, Hyde, Johnson, James, March, Spalding, Treat, E. Williams, P. Williams, Wing, J. W. Bay, Freligh, and Gansevoort were absent.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. John W. Hinkley being proposed at the last meeting was balloted for and unanimously elected a member of this Society.

The President reported that he transmitted a copy of the above letter to Andrew Abel, Esq., and that he has since removed to the county of Rensselaer.

Drs. David W. D. Houghtaling and Charles E. Burrows

of Gibbonsville were proposed by Dr. Van OLinda as members of this Society.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be added to the committee to revise the by-laws.

The Treasurer stated that he was unable to collect the fines from a number of the members; it was therefore resolved that the Treasurer be directed to use all legal means to collect the dues belonging to the Society.

*Resolved*, That the bill for printing those queries concerning small pox be paid by the Treasurer.

Adjourned.

WM. HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

The Secretary also reports that since the last meeting of the Society, John H. Clark has been examined by the Censors and admitted to practice. The money received for a diploma I have paid to the Treasurer, Dr. Van OLinda.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

January 10th, 1826.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The roll being called, Drs. Eights, March, Spalding, Staats, Viets, Van OLinda, P. Williams, Gansevoort, Hinkley, and Humphrey were present. Drs. W. Bay, Beck, Brownell, Clement, Dennick, Hyde, Johnson, James, Treat, E. Williams, Wing, J. W. Bay, and Freligh were absent.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

Dr. Joel A. Wing was elected *President*.

Dr. Platt Williams, *Vice-President*.

Dr. William Humphrey, *Secretary*.

Dr. John W. Hinkley, *Treasurer*.

Dr. P. Williams, *Librarian*.

Drs. Alden March, Barent P. Staats, Peter Van OLinda, Lyman Spalding, and Rensselaer Gansevoort, *Censors*.

Drs. David W. D. Houghtaling and Charles E. Burrows being proposed at the last meeting as members of this Society, were balloted for and unanimously elected members.

The Treasurer's report was read and referred to Dr. Staats.

The Society retained T. Romeyn Beck and Wing for the purchasing committee.

The Society having taken into consideration the subject of the Albany Medicated Vapor Bath as its being a species of quackery and contrary to the code of Medical Ethics of the State Society, therefore the following resolution was offered.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the nature of the Medicated Vapor Bath and to see how far as it comes within the meaning of said system of Medical Ethics, and report to this Society at its next quarterly meeting.

The committee appointed are Drs. T. R. Beck, Viets, and Van OLinda.

Dr. Spalding asked leave to withdraw from the Society.

On taking the vote it appeared leave was not granted.

Whereupon the following resolution was offered and adopted.

*Resolved*, That all fines for the future be abolished for non-attendance at all meetings except the annual meetings of this Society.

Adjourned.

WILLIAM HUMPHREY, *Secretary*.

At an extra meeting of Albany County Medical Society, held on Monday evening, the 13th of March, 1826, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, This Society have heard with deep regret of the death of their late worthy associate, Dr. William Humphrey, Secretary of this Society; thereupon,

*Resolved*, As a token of their respect for the memory of the deceased, that the members of this Society will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days; and that the physicians of the city generally are requested to join with this Society in wearing the same.

PETER VAN OLINDA, *Secretary, pro tem.*

April 11th, 1826.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Present, Drs. Wing, Williams, Staats, Viets, March, Van OLinda, Gansevoort, and Hinkley.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Staats reported that he had examined the Treasurer's accounts and found them correct.

The committee on the Albany Medicated Vapor Bath reported as follows:

The committee, to whom was referred the consideration of the Albany Medicated Vapor Bath report that, in entering upon their duties, their first step has been to ascertain that the system of Medical Ethics is binding as a rule of conduct on the members of this Society.

On searching the records with this view, the first notice we find of the subject, is a resolution passed the 8th of July, 1823. As follows:

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed, consisting of Drs. Wendell, Beck, and Wing, to examine the code of Medical Ethics, submitted to this Society from the State Medical Society and, report at the next meeting any objections or alterations.

This committee at the next quarterly meeting stated that they had had the subject under consideration, and asked for longer time to make out a report.

At the next quarterly meeting, being the anniversary, Jany. 13th, 1824, that committee reported as follows:

The committee, appointed to examine the code of Medical Ethics adopted by the State Medical Society beg leave



to report, that in their opinion it is calculated to increase the dignity and honor of the profession, and as such they would recommend it to be adopted by this Society; which report was accepted.

We therefore conclude that the system of Ethics is in full force as the rule for regulating the conduct of members of this Society.

In the 2d division and 4th section of that system we find that, any physician or surgeon, who practices with nostrums, secret medicines, or patent remedies, is guilty of *quackery*; and this strong and explicit language is immediately in the 5th section followed by this. "The right of a patent medicine being incompatible with the duty, and obligation enjoined on physicians to advance the knowledge of curing diseases, it constitutes quackery and can not be professionally countenanced."

But your committee have felt it inconsistent with their sense of duty, to stop here in the consideration of this subject. Knowing that it is almost impossible for any but medical men, to estimate correctly the talents or worth, of other members of the profession, or the merits of any new remedy or pretended discovery; considering also the great thirst for novelty in all communities and their ready credence of the reports of marvelous cures effected by any other means than regular medical practice; considering also that few individuals are sufficiently acquainted with the diagnostic symptoms of diseases, to be able to distinguish them; that there is in many, even whose minds are well informed on most other subjects, a strong prejudice against the approved principles and modes of practice of our profession, and in favor of "roots and herbs, the produce of our own country;"

Therefore, your committee are of opinion that establishments like the Vapor Bath in the hands of regular physicians, may have a tendency to divert the attention of patients from the ordinary and probable means of safety;



that they give an improper and unfair advantage to the proprietors of such establishments, whether they feel the disposition to avail themselves of that advantage or not.

It is this point of view that we conceive such establishments to be at variance with the 13th article under the 4th division of the system of Ethics which says:

Honor and justice particularly forbid a medical practitioner's infringing upon the rights and privileges of another who is legally accredited, and whose character is not impeached by public opinion or civil medical authority; whether he be a native or a stranger settled in the country. There is no difference between physicians but such as results from their personal talents, medical acquirements, or their experience; and the public, from the services which they receive, are the natural judges of these intellectual advantages. In all probability every good physician would receive a merited share of patronage, were there not many who usurp a portion through artful insinuations, and slanders of others; or combinations against or improper interference with the more worthy practitioner. Any physician thus molested or injured is justifiable in applying for redress to the County Medical Society to which he is attached.

Your committee therefore feel constrained to say that although the application of warmth and moisture externally, has long been held in high repute as a remedy in the cure of diseases, yet it is their opinion that the use of these means by *regular physicians* with *patented machines*, and under the peculiar circumstances of the *Albany Medicated Vapor Bath* comes within the meaning of the letter and the spirit of the system of Ethics, and ought to be discountenanced by this Society.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

P. V. VAN OLINDA,  
ROGER VIETS.

Albany, April 11th, 1826.

The above report was concurred in by the Society.  
Adjourned.

P. VAN OLINDA, *Secretary, pro tem.*

July 12th, 1826.

The Society met agreeably to notice. Present, Drs. Wing, E. Williams, Staats, March, Gansevoort, Hinkley, and Van OLinda.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

A letter from Dr. Michael Freligh to Dr. Wing was read, in which he requests dismissal from this Society upon which it was resolved that Dr. Wing the President be requested to write Dr. Freligh, explaining to him that all fines for non-attendance except at the annual meetings are abolished.

The President offered an account from E. F. Backus, which was referred to Dr. Hinkley the Treasurer, and if he find the same correct to pay it on deduction of the interest.

A motion was made and passed to have the President apply to the board of corporation to have a weekly report of deaths published in this city.

The following resolution was offered and passed unanimously.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed consisting of Drs. Platt Williams, and Alden March for the purpose of informing Drs. Jonathan Eights, William Bay, and John W. Bay of the proceedings of the Society in relation to the Medicated Vapor Bath, in order that they may have an opportunity of taking such measures as they may think proper in relation thereto at the next quarterly meeting.

Adjourned.

P. VAN OLINDA, *Secretary, pro tem.*

There was no meeting of the Society in October.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

Jany. 6th, 1827.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Present, Drs. E. Williams, J. A. Wing, P. Williams, B. P. Staats, Guy Spalding, A. March, P. Van OLinda, R. Viets, J. W. Hinkley. Absent, Drs. Wm. Bay, John W. Bay, Jonathan Eights, Isaac Hyde, Jonathan Johnson, John James, Saml. S. Treat, Moses Clement, Valentine Dennick, Rensselaer Gansevoort, Michael Freligh, D. W. D. Houghtaling, and Charles E. Burrows.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer reported, which report was referred to Dr. Van OLinda to be reported on at our next meeting.

The Secretary reports that during the past year one student, Isaac Hempstead, has been examined and licensed. The money for the diploma is paid to Dr. Hinkley, the Treasurer.

Drs. Hazael Kane and Michael Malone were proposed by Dr. Wing, and Dr. H. Van OLinda by Dr. Van OLinda, for membership.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, when on counting the ballots it was found that the following gentlemen were elected.

Dr. Joel A. Wing, *President*.

Dr. Platt Williams, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Peter Van OLinda, *Secretary*.

Dr. John W. Hinkley, *Treasurer*.

Dr. Platt Williams, *Librarian*.

Drs. A. March, B. P. Staats, R. Gansevoort, Peter Van OLinda and Guy Spalding, *Censors*.

The Society retained Drs. T. R. Beck and Wing, together with the Librarian, for purchasing committee.

The following resolutions were then offered and unanimously adopted by the Society.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer be authorized and requested to procure insurance on the library belonging to

this Society at the Merchants' Insurance office in this city to the amount of three hundred dollars.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society be presented to Dr. Hinkley for his exertions as Treasurer for this Society, and that he be requested to collect forthwith all the debts due to this Society either by law or otherwise as may be necessary.

Whereas, Certain members of this Society have attached themselves to the *Medicated Vapor Bath*. And whereas a committee was appointed by this Society to investigate the subject and report thereon, which committee reported that in their opinion such conduct is discountenanced by the system of Medical Ethics adopted by the Medical Society of the State of New York, and subsequently by this Society, which report was accepted. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Delegate from this Society be instructed to lay all its proceedings in relation to this subject before the Medical Society of the State of New York for their consideration and final decision.

Adjourned.

April 10th, 1827.

A quorum not appearing, the Society adjourned.

July 10th, 1827.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The roll being called, Drs. Joel A. Wing, Platt Williams, Barent P. Staats, Alden March, R. Viets, P. Van OLinda, and J. W. Hinkley were present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Van OLinda, to whom was referred the Treasurers report, reports that he has examined the same and compared it with his accounts and finds it correct.

Dr. Hazael Kane, and Dr. Henry Van OLinda who were proposed according to law, were unanimously elected members of this Society.



Dr. Michael Malone was unanimously rejected.

After some desultory conversation the Society adjourned.

P. VAN OLINDA, *Secretary*.

Albany, Oct. 9th, 1827.

A quorum not appearing, the Society adjourned.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

Jany. 8th, 1828.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Present, Drs. Wing, William Bay, John W. Bay, Platt Williams, B. P. Staats, P. Van OLinda, H. Van OLinda, S. S. Treat, H. Kane, J. W. Hinkley, R. Gansevoort, G. Spalding, R. Viets, and H. Van Antwerp.

The following gentlemen having been previously notified by the President and received certificates of membership (agreeably to the provisions of an act passed in November, 1827, entitled "*General regulations concerning the practice of physic and surgery*,") also took their seats as members of this Society, viz.:

Drs. Chas. D. Townsend, J. McNaughton, P. McNaughton, Saml. Humphries, Peter Wendell, J. P. Boyd.

Absent, Drs. Jonathan Eights, John James, Alden March, Moses Clement, Jonathan Johnson, Michl. Freligh, D. W. D. Houghtaling, Isaac Hyde, Valentine Dennick, and Vredenburgh.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers, and the following gentlemen were elected, viz.:

Dr. Platt Williams, *President*.

Dr. Chas. D. Townsend, *Vice-President*.

Dr. James P. Boyd, *Secretary*.

Dr. Roger Viets, *Treasurer*.

Dr. Platt Williams, *Librarian*.

Drs. Jonathan Eights, Joel A. Wing, James McNaughton, T. Romeyn Beck, and R. Gansevoort, *Censors*.



Joel A. Wing, *Delegate to the State Medical Society.*

T. Romeyn Beck, Joel A. Wing and Platt Williams,  
*Purchasing Committee.*

The Treasurer reported, that during the past year there has been paid into the treasury the sum of \$65.00 including \$12.90 cents, the balance of last year, and \$15 received from the Secretary, the fees for 3 diplomas; and that he has paid the following bills, viz.:

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Wm. Seymour for binding, &c.,.....  | \$5.50 |
| Insurance premium and policy,.....  | 2.00   |
| James Webster of Philad. for the Medical Recorder<br>for 1826-27,.....                                  | 10.00  |
| The balance on J. V. Seamen's bill of \$66.00,.....   | 16.00  |
| E. F. Backus for vols. 13 and 14 Phil. Medical Jour-<br>nal, and vol. 16 of N. England Medical Journal, | 8.25   |
| And a small account for fees on suits,.....   | 0.50   |

Leaving a balance in the treasury of \$24.65, and the Society, to the best of his knowledge, out of debt. He has also complied with the resolution passed by the Society at the last annual meeting in procuring an insurance on the Society's library to the amount of \$300 at the Merchants' Insurance office, the policy of which expired on the 19th of Jan'y at noon. He has also procured the names of several physicians who have been practicing for two or three years past within the county and have not before been added to the list: making, as far as information is correct, 65 practicing physicians and surgeons in the city and county of Albany. He further adds that the whole amount due for the present year is \$176.50.

The Secretary reported that during the last year, three students, Isaac W. Hurd, Elhanan W. Jackson, and James Griffin have been recommended by the Censors, and licensed by the Society. The money for the diplomas being paid to the Treasurer, Dr. Hinkley.

It was resolved that both the above reports be referred

to a committee of three, to be reported on at the next quarterly meeting; and that the following gentlemen constitute that committee, viz.: Drs. B. P. Staats, Joel A. Wing, and P. Van OLinda.

The following resolutions were also unanimously adopted by the Society.

*Resolved*, That Drs. W. Bay, T. R. Beck, and J. A. Wing be constituted a committee to revise the by-laws; and this committee report at the next quarterly meeting.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer pay to the Delegate to the State Medical Society the sum of \$5 to be appropriated to the funds of said Society.

Adjourned.

JAMES P. BOYD, *Secretary*.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

April 8th, 1828.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Present, Drs. Wing, P. Williams, Viets, Hinkley, Humphries, P. Van OLinda, H. Van OLinda, Hazael Kane, and P. P. Staats.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The committee to whom were referred the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, asked for further time which was granted.

A communication was received from Dr. T. R. Beck from the committee on by-laws, stating that they do not think it advisable to report, until the fate of the bill before the legislature, to repeal the most important provisions of the medical law, is known.

The President reported that since the last meeting of the Society he has given certificates of membership agreeably to the revised laws, entitled "*General regulations concerning the practice of physic and surgery in this state*" to the following persons.

Drs. Asa Burbank, James M. Brown, Michael Malone,

William Tully, Elisha S. Burton, Peter P. Staats, William Noble, Peter B. Noxon.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That an extra meeting of this Society be held on the 3d Wednesday in May next at three o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee on the by-laws.

Adjourned.

P. VAN OLINDA, *Secretary, pro tem.*

July 15th, 1828.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Present, Drs. Eights, Wing, Williams, Viets, Wellington, Hinkley, Malone, P. P. Staats, Noble, and Boyd.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The committee, to whom were referred the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, stated that they had examined said reports, and found them correct.

The committee, appointed to revise the by-laws of this Society, also reported and presented their report for the consideration of the Society.

It was then resolved, that in the examination of the above report, it be taken up by sections, and acted upon accordingly.

The 1st *Section* of the by-laws was adopted as it originally stood, without any alteration.

In *Section 2d*, Art. 4th, which relates to the duties of the Secretary, it was resolved to add the following, viz.:

The Secretary shall provide a book, in which he shall procure and preserve the signatures of the candidates to the declaration following, viz.:

I, A. B., do solemnly declare that I will honestly, virtuously and chastely conduct myself in the practice of physic and surgery, with the privileges of exercising which profession I am now to be invested; and that I will with fidelity and honor do every thing in my power for the benefit

of the sick committed to my charge (Art. VI, by-laws of State Medical Society); and he shall also procure diplomas in conformity to the state laws (Art. VIII of by-laws of State Medical Society).

In Art. V, respecting the duties of the Treasurer, it was resolved that the words—and for the faithful performance of his trust, before he enters upon the duties of his office, to give security in such sum as the President and Vice-President may deem sufficient—be stricken out.

In *Section 3*, the 1st Art. was omitted and the following substituted, viz.: Any physician or surgeon having a license by the laws of this state to practice his profession, shall on application at a regular meeting of this Society be admitted a member thereof. It was also resolved to omit the 3d Art. which related to the fines imposed on members for non-attendance.

A motion was then made to add the following to the 3d section, viz.: That no person shall receive a certificate of membership from the President of this Society, until the President or Society shall be satisfied as to his right to practice, which motion was lost.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That a special meeting of this Society be held on Saturday next 19th inst. at 3 o'clock P. M.

Adjourned.

JAMES P. BOYD, *Secretary*.

July 19th, 1828.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Nineteen members present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The object of the meeting being stated by the President to be the revision of the by-laws of the Society, it was resolved that, as many of the members present at the last meeting were unprepared for the business before them, and the majority of the Society being absent at that time,



to reconsider those parts of the by-laws that were reviewed at the last meeting. They were accordingly taken up and acted upon by sections, as at the meeting previous.

In section 1st to the 1st article was added the words, "except on the anniversary meetings when 9 members present will be necessary to proceed to the election of officers."

In the 2d section which relates to officers and their duty, the 1st article was adopted as in the old by-laws. To article 2d regarding the duties of the President, the following was added, "and shall only have a casting vote in all transactions where the votes of the members are equally divided, and shall deliver the decisions of the Society. He shall also provide a book, in which he shall procure and preserve the signatures of the candidates to the declaration following, viz.:

'I, A. B., do solemnly declare that I will honestly, virtuously, and chastely conduct myself in the practice of physic and surgery, with the privileges of exercising which profession I am now to be invested, and that I will with fidelity and honor, do every thing in my power for the benefit of the sick committed to my charge'" (see art. 7th by-laws of State Medical Society).

The 3d article was adopted as it now stands in the old by-laws. To the duties of the Secretary in article 4th was added, "and shall also procure diplomas in conformity to the state by-laws" (see article 8th State Medical Society by-laws). In the 5th article, which embraces the Treasurer's duty, the words "and for the faithful performance of his trust, before he enters upon the duties of his office, to give security to the Society, in such sum as the President and Vice-President may deem sufficient," were expunged.

In article 6th relating to the duties of Censors the words following were inserted after last period but one, viz.: "and said certificate shall contain the opinion of the Censors, that the candidate or candidates have complied with the



requisitions of the laws of this state as to time of study and legal qualifications."

It was then resolved to make the following the 7th article of section 2d, viz. "The seniority of the Censors shall be determined by the number of votes given for each at the time of their election to office."

An 8th article was also added, viz.: "It shall be the duty of the Librarian to take charge of all books and pamphlets belonging to this Society, and shall annually report the state of the library."

In section 3d, admission of members, the 1st article was expunged and the following substituted, viz.: "Any physician or surgeon having a license by the laws of this state to practice his profession, shall on application at a regular meeting be admitted a member thereof."

Article 2d was stricken out and the following substituted, viz.: "The President, Vice-President, and Censors shall constitute a comitia minora to receive all applications for membership during the recess of the Society; and they shall report the qualifications of all applicants with their vouchers to the first meeting of the Society thereafter."

Article 3d was adopted as far as to "absence at quarterly meetings," &c.

Section 4th, article 1st, adopted as it stands in the old by-laws. Article 2d rejected and the following substituted, viz.: "The purchasing committee shall have power to draw an order on the Treasurer for moneys in his hands, to pay for all books purchased or subscribed for by them for the library of the Society. The Treasurer shall not pay the moneys in his hands belonging to the Society for other purposes, except by the special order of the President."

Section 5th, admission of students. Article 1st, "four dollars" was inserted in the place of two dollars. In article 2d, the words "in writing," were expunged.

In section 6th the 1st article was adopted without altera-

tions. In article 2d the words "no member shall speak," &c., to the first period were stricken out, and the words "or to correct a mistake," were inserted. Article 3d was left out and the following substituted, viz.: "If a member has spoken once in any debate, he shall not speak to the prevention of another who has not spoke and manifests a desire to speak." Article 4th adopted without alteration.

The following resolutions were then offered and unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to examine the files of medical licenses in the clerk's office in this county, and that Drs. Wm. Bay, Barent P. Staats, and Saml. S. Treat, constitute said committee.

*Resolved*, That the regulations regarding the library be adopted as they now stand.

*Resolved*, That L. G. Hoffman's bill of \$3.12½ be paid on order of the President.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Beck, Wing and Eights be a committee to have 250 copies of the revised by-laws printed: and that the state law, and a catalogue of the library be added.

Adjourned.

JAMES P. BOYD, *Secretary*.

#### *Quarterly Meeting.*

Oct. 14th, 1828.

A sufficient number of members to form a quorum not appearing, there was no meeting of the Society.

#### *Anniversary Meeting.*

Jany. 13th, 1829.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Twenty-eight members present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The following gentlemen were proposed, and admitted members of this Society, viz.:

Drs. N. V. Winne, H. Green, and Jno. Styles.

The Librarian reported, that since the last anniversary meeting of the Society, the last numbers of the *New York Medical and Physical Journal*, *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, and *The American Medical Recorder* had been added to the library; which report was accepted.

The reports from the Treasurer and Secretary were also received and referred to a select committee to be reported on at the next quarterly meeting, and the following gentlemen were appointed to constitute said committee, viz.: Drs. P. Van OLinda, J. Hinkley, and P. McNaughton.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the following were chosen, viz.:

Dr. Platt Williams, *President*.

Dr. Barent P. Staats, *Vice-President*.

Dr. James P. Boyd, *Secretary*.

Dr. Edward A. Leonard, *Treasurer*.

Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, *Librarian*.

Dr. Joel A. Wing, *Delegate to State Medical Society*.

Drs. P. Van OLinda, William Tully, Lewis C. Beck, Alden March, and Henry Green, *Censors*.

Adjourned.

JAMES P. BOYD, *Secretary*.

#### *Quarterly Meeting.*

April 14th, 1829.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Present, Drs. March, Green, Viets, Van Antwerp, and Leonard.

Dr. Green being appointed President, *pro tem*.

Dr. Viets Secretary, *pro tem*.

*Resolved*, That we adjourn to meet on Tuesday 21st inst. at 3 o'clock P. M.

Adjourned.

ROGER VIETS, *Secretary, pro tem*.

#### *Special Meeting.*

April 21st, 1829.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Present, Drs.

Williams, Barent P. Staats, Peter P. Staats, H. Kane, and J. P. Boyd.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The President having stated that the meeting was called principally to give some instructions to the Treasurer relative to the collection of money due the Treasury: the Society immediately proceeded to this business.

After some conversation on the propriety of giving the Treasurer any further directions than those contained in the by-laws the following resolution was finally offered and unanimously adopted, viz.:

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer be instructed to collect all moneys due this Society without delay.

Adjourned.

JAMES P. BOYD, *Secretary*.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

July 14th, 1829.

The Society met pursuant to notice.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The committee to whom were referred the reports of the Treasurer and Secretary reported.

The Treasurer objected to a motion made to accept the report as one of the members refused the payment of his annual medical tax, for reasons which were then stated. After a great deal of conversation on this subject the report was accepted.

The following resolution was then offered and passed, viz.:

*Resolved*, That the names of those students whose certificates are filed with the President, be entered upon the minutes of the Society.

The following gentlemen were admitted members of the Society, viz.: Drs. Augustus F. Lawyer, Isaac Hempstead, Benj. Van Zandt, Abram T. Biglow, Francis N. Selkirk, and Solomon Lincoln.



Dr. March read a paper before the Society, the subject of which was the history, treatment and post mortem examination of a case of fractured cranium.

The Censors announced to the Society their determination to reduce their fees for the examination of students from the price established in the by-laws at \$4 each, which amounts in all to \$20, to \$12.

Adjourned.

JAMES P. BOYD, *Secretary*.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

Oct. 13th, 1829.

Present, Drs. Williams, March, Hempstead, Selkirk, Noble, Wing, Eights, Hinkley, H. Van OLinda, P. Van OLinda, Wellington, Styles, Viets, and Boyd.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The following resolution was adopted, viz.;

*Resolved*, That the names of those students who have filed certificates with the President of this Society, be also entered on the Secretary's book.

A communication was read by the Secretary received from the Secretary of the State Medical Society accompanying seven copies of Magill's Prize Dissertation on Typhus, that being the proportion to which this Society are entitled.

It was on motion resolved to appoint a committee to inquire into the present law relating to the medical tax. And Drs. Wing, March, and Wellington were appointed to constitute that committee.

A resolution was adopted to alter a by-law passed this Society in April 1824, so that it will read as follows, viz.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer of this Society pay annually the sum of five dollars to the delegate to the state society, whose duty it shall be to pay the same to the Treasurer of the state society.

Dr. Eights stated to the Society that he had received



letters from the Treasurer requesting him to pay certain fines, taxes, &c., which he thinks have already been paid, and for which he has not been credited on the Treasurer's books. Whereupon, Drs. Wing, Hinkley, and Viets were appointed a committee to investigate the subject.

Adjourned.

JAMES P. BOYD, *Secretary*.

*Special Meeting.*

Oct. 28th, 1829.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Present, Drs. B. P. Staats, Wing, H. Van OLinda, Hinkley, Williams, Hempstead, Selkirk, Van Antwerp, Styles, Boyd.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The President having stated that the meeting was called in consequence of Dr. Leonard's resignation as Treasurer of this Society, it was resolved to accept the same.

The Society next proceeded to elect by ballot a Treasurer, and on counting the votes it was found that Dr. Isaac Hempstead was the successful candidate.

Dr. Markay having made application to the President of this Society for membership: his credentials were referred for examination to a select committee consisting of Drs. Wing, Viets, and H. Van OLinda.

The said Committee soon after reported that they had examined the credentials of Dr. Markay and found them satisfactory. He was accordingly elected a member of the Society.

It was then resolved to appoint a committee to examine the accounts of the late Treasurer; and Drs. Wing, Hinkley and Viets were appointed to constitute said committee.

Adjourned.

JAMES P. BOYD, *Secretary*.

*Anniversary.*

January 12th, 1830.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Present, Drs. Wil-

liam Bay, Jont. Eights, Chas. D. Townsend, Joel A. Wing, Platt Williams, Peter Van OLinda, Henry Van OLinda, Barent P. Staats, T. Romeyn Beck, John W. Bay, Saml. S. Treat, Peter McNaughton, Jas. P. Boyd, John James, Roger Viets, Alden March, Jno. W. Hinkley, H. Kane, G. Spalding, E. Williams, E. S. Burton, Wm. Pearce, Peter P. Staats, Wm Noble, P. B. Noxson, Luke Wellington, H. Van Antwerp, Jas. M. Brown, N. V. Winne, H. Greene, Jno. Styles, A. Lawyer, J. Hempstead, F. Selkirk, S. Lincoln, A. T. Bigelow, Benj. Van Zandt, N. Markay, Shaw, Rockwell, Davidson, Crosby, Murphey, Rusk, Cuyler, McLachlan.

Absent, Drs. James McNaughton, Fredenburgh, Isaac Hyde, Freleigh, Lewis C. Beck, Jont. Johnson, Clement, Dennick, D. W. D. Houghtailing.

The following resolution was then adopted, viz.:

*Resolved*, That those persons applying for membership, and who have received their diplomas from this state, be referred to the President whose duty it shall be to examine their credentials: and all receiving diplomas out of this state be referred to the comitia minora.

The following gentlemen having produced their credentials according to our by-laws, were admitted members of this Society, viz.: Drs. Shaw, Rockwell, Davidson, Crosby Pearce, Murphey, Rusk, Cuyler, and McLachlan.

The committee to whom were referred the accounts of the late Treasurer reported, which report was accepted.

The committee appointed to examine the law respecting the Dollar tax reported, which report was also accepted.

The Treasurer's report of the state of funds of the Society was received and referred for examination to a committee consisting of Drs. P. Van OLinda, R. Viets, and J. W. Hinkley.

The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's books relative to moneys due the Society from Dr. Eights, reported; and their report accepted.

The same committee offered a resolution to remit the fines of Dr. Eights, which was adopted.

The Secretary's report was read and referred for examination to the committee appointed to examine the report of the Treasurer, consisting of Drs. Peter Van O'Linda, Roger Viets, and Jno. W. Hinkley.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the following gentlemen were chosen, viz.:

Dr. Charles D. Townsend, *President*.

Dr. Barent P. Staats, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Luke Wellington, *Secretary*.

Dr. Isaac Hempstead, *Treasurer*.

Dr. Henry Van Antwerp, *Librarian*.

Drs. Alden March, Lewis C. Beck, Guy Spalding, Henry Greene, Saml. S. Treat, *Censors*.

Adjourned.

JAMES P. BOYD, *Secretary*.

#### *Quarterly Meeting.*

April 13th, 1830.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Thirteen members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The following gentlemen were then constituted members by presenting certificates from the clerk of the county that their diplomas were filed in his office, and by receiving certificates of membership from the president, viz.: John F. Townsend, Henry Bronson, Jonathan H. Case.

On motion of Dr. Tully the following resolution was passed, viz.:

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to revise the by-laws and report at the next anniversary meeting. The President appointed Drs. Williams, March and Tully to constitute that committee.

Adjourned.

LUKE WELLINGTON, *Secretary*.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

July 13th, 1830.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Present, Drs. C. D. Townsend, B. P. Staats, A. March, Wm. Noble, R. Viets, J. A. Wing, S. Shaw, H. Greene, O. Crosby, Bronson, and E. S. Burton.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Luke Wellington's resignation of the office of Secretary read and accepted.

A bill of Messrs. Webster and Skinners for printing 250 copies of the by-laws presented.

A committee was appointed to settle the above bill consisting of Drs. Noble and Burton.

Dr. Lewis C. Beck's letter of resignation was read and accepted.

On motion it was resolved to proceed to the election for a Secretary and Censor.

Dr. Elisha S. Burton was elected Secretary of this Society.

Dr. William Noble was elected Censor of this Society.

A circular from the State Medical Society was read.

On motion it was resolved to appoint a committee of three to make the topography of this county, consisting of Drs. McNaughton, Wing and T. R. Beck.

On motion, it was resolved to add the following physicians to the above committee, viz.:

Erastus Williams of Knox, Michael Freligh of Water-vliet, Guy Spalding of Bethlehem, Isaac Hyde of Rensselaerville, James S. Lowe of Guilderland, Fredenburgh of Coeymans and Lay of Westerlo.

Adjourned.

E. S. BURTON, *Secretary.*

*Quarterly Meeting.*

October 12th, 1830.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Members present,



Drs. C. D. Townsend, J. McNaughton, B. P. Staats, A. March, H. Green, W. Noble, H. Bronson, H. Van Antwerp, O. Crosby, S. Shaw, R. Viets, F. N. Selkirk, B. B. Fredenburgh, B. Van Zandt, W. O'Donnell, T. Hun, and J. S. Lowe.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. David Springsteed's certificate of filing his diploma presented and read, and he was admitted a member of this Society. A certificate of the filing of Dr. Benjamin B. Fredenburgh's diploma presented and read, and he was admitted a member of this Society.

On motion of Dr. J. McNaughton he was appointed a member of the committee to make the medical topography of this county. Dr. H. Bronson read a paper on typhus fever. Motioned by Dr. J. McNaughton that the thanks of this Society be presented to Dr. Bronson for his valuable paper and that he deliver a copy to be deposited in the archives of the Society.

Adjourned.

E. S. BURTON, *Secretary*.

### *Anniversary Meeting.*

January 11th, 1831.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Present, Drs. Peter Wendell, Henry Van Antwerp, Burton, James Brown, Wm. Noble, Roger Viets, Rockwell, Ten Eyck Gansevoort, Samuel S. Treat, Jonathan Eights, Wm. Bay, J. W. Bay, Joel A. Wing, Platt Williams, John W. Hinkley, Barent P. Staats, James McNaughton, Hazael Kane, Wm. Pearce, Z. W. Lay, Van Zandt, O. Crosby, Henry Greene, Styles, James P. Boyd, Francis Selkirk, Wm. O'Donnell, Henry Van OLinda, Markay, Thomas Hun, James S. Lowe, Samuel Shaw, Henry Bronson, Alden March, Noxon, Guy Spalding, Clement, Peter P. Staats John F. Townsend, Peter Van OLinda, N. V. Winne, Isaac Hempstead, Erastus Williams, Peter McNaughton, David McLachlan, Benj.



B. Fredenburgh, Charles D. Townsend. Absent, Drs. J. Johnson, Dennick, David Springsteed, J. H. Case, John James.

The minutes having been read and approved,

The Society elected the following gentlemen officers for the ensuing year.

Dr. Charles D. Townsend, *President*.

Dr. Barent P. Staats, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Samuel S. Treat, *Secretary*.

Dr. David McLachlan, *Librarian*.

Dr. Isaac Hempstead, *Treasurer*.

Drs. Jonathan Eights, Peter Van OLinda, Peter McNaughton, Hazael Kane, James S. Lowe, *Censors*.

Drs. Joel A. Wing, James McNaughton, David McLachlan, *Purchasing Committee*.

Drs. Barent P. Staats, H. Kane and Peter Van OLinda were appointed a committee to examine the Treasurer's report.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted.

The Librarian stated that he adhered to the usage of his predecessor, and accordingly had prepared no report.

The following gentlemen were admitted members of the Society after the approval of their credentials. Drs. Lewis B. Gregory, Palmer C. Dorr, Lansing Cory, and Christie.

The following gentlemen's credentials were offered to the comitia minora for examination. Drs. Burrow and Hammond.

Adjourned.

SAMUEL S. TREAT, *Secretary*.

*Special Meeting.*

January 12th, 1831.

Society being organized, the President stated that the records, papers, and library of the Society were detained

by the Ex-Secretary and Librarian; and that they had refused after an order had been duly served on each to deliver over the Society's property; also that an irregular meeting of some individuals of the Society had been held after the anniversary meeting of the 11th inst., and had proceeded to the election of officers: and that their names had been announced in one of the public journals simultaneously with the names of the gentlemen that were duly elected officers at the regular anniversary meeting; he had therefore called a special meeting of the Society in order to direct the course to be pursued.

Whereupon the following resolution was offered and passed unanimously.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed of which the President shall be one to take such legal measures as may be proper, for the recovery of the property belonging to the Society.

Drs. Jonathan Eights and Barent P. Staats were appointed, together with the President, to constitute that committee.

The following resolution was also offered and passed unanimously.

*Resolved*, That the expenses attending the legal proceeding as directed above, be paid from the funds of the Society.

Drs. Wm. Bay, Joel A. Wing and James McNaughton were appointed a committee to prepare a statement of the proceedings which took place at the anniversary meeting.

Adjourned.

SAMUEL S. TREAT, *Secretary*.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

April 12th, 1831.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The statement of the committee appointed at the special meeting Jan. 12th, 1831, consisting of Drs. Bay, Wing, and McNaughton ap-

proved, read, and ordered to be entered on the minutes of the Society. The Society met at 11 o'clock A. M. of Tuesday Jany. 11th, agreeably to the by-laws of the said Society after the regular notice having been given. The Society being organized, the roll was called and the minutes of the former meeting read and approved. While the Secretary was engaged in reading over the names of the members, during a short pause in the proceedings, Dr. Eights supposing the roll to have been gone through with, moved that the Society proceed to the election of officers for the ensuing year. This was declared to be out of order, and the Doctor withdrew his motion. The Secretary then proceeded with the roll and minutes. When he had finished Dr. Noble moved that the Society proceed to the admission of new members; as an amendment Dr. Eights moved that the Society now proceed to the election of officers for the ensuing year. After a debate the President declared the motion for amendment was in order; whereupon the question was taken on the amendment and a division called for, and passed in the affirmative in the manner following, viz.: twenty-eight voted in favor of proceeding to the election of officers and sixteen against it. The Society then proceeded to the election; several members of the minority arose from their seats and left the room, all refusing to vote when their names were called by the Secretary; they however frequently returned and endeavoured to interrupt the proceedings of the Society, disregarded the authority of the President and acted in a very unbecoming and disorderly manner. Several individuals who were not members of the Society clamorously insisted upon the right to be admitted as members of the Society; the Society however proceeded until the election was finished.

The following gentlemen were duly elected officers of the Society for the ensuing year.

Dr. Charles D. Townsend, *President*.

Dr. Barent P. Staats, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Saml. S. Treat, *Secretary*.

Dr. Isaac Hempstead, *Treasurer*.

Dr. McLachlan, *Librarian*.

Drs. Jonathan Eights, Peter Van OLinda, Peter McNaughton, H. Kane, and Lowe, *Censors*.

James McNaughton, Joel Wing, and Dr. McLachlan, *Purchasing Committee*.

Immediately after the election the Society proceeded to the admission of new members; several were admitted whose testimonials were satisfactory, and several others were referred to the Comitia Minora for examination. The Society then proceeded to the ordinary business, which being completed, no further business presenting, the Society adjourned.

[A short time after the adjournment of the anniversary meeting of the Society, Charles D. Townsend having been informed of the refusal of the Ex-Secretary to deliver up the minutes and papers of said Society, requested the Secretary elect to serve an order on the Ex-Secretary for said minutes and papers; which order was duly served and the delivery of said minutes and papers was again refused. An order has likewise been made by the said President and served by the Librarian elect on the Ex-Librarian for the library of said Society and a similar refusal has been the result.]

The report of the law committee appointed by the Society at the special meeting held January 12, 1831, read, approved of, and ordered to be entered on the minutes of the Society.

That agreeably to the wishes of the Society they consulted Benj. F. Butler, Esq., and obtained his opinion and advice; that in pursuance thereof they directed Mr. Butler to proceed in such legal measures as he might judge most proper and most expeditious for the recovery of the books, minutes and other property belonging to the So-



ciety and unjustly and unlawfully detained by the late Librarian Dr. Van Antwerp and by the late Secretary *pro tem.* Dr. Burton; and who had heretofore refused to deliver them over to Dr. McLachlan Librarian and Dr. Treat Secretary, their successors in office elected at the late anniversary of the Society, upon the order of the President, and that after a legal investigation, and after the opinion of his honor judge Savage in which the illegality of the detention was clearly delineated, they were delivered over; the books composing the library to Dr. McLachlan Librarian, and the books of minutes to Dr. S. S. Treat the Secretary, in whose possession they now are. Your committee forbear to make any comments on the unprecedented, extraordinary, and illegal conduct of Dr. Van Antwerp and Dr. Burton, trusting that the Society will take such measures as will prevent a repetition of such unwarrantable conduct.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JONATHAN EIGHTS,  
BARENT P. STAATS.

Moved and seconded that the opinion of the chief justice when obtained, shall be entered upon the minutes of the Society.

Moved and seconded that a committee be appointed to revise the by-laws of the Society and that Drs. Bay, Eights, and James McNaughton, constitute that committee.

Moved and seconded that the Librarian be a committee to report the state of the library and to furnish a new catalogue of the books of said library.

A committee was appointed consisting of Barent P. Staats, Peter McNaughton, and H. Kane to wait upon the mayor in order to obtain a room in the new City Hall for the use and benefit of the Society.

Moved and seconded that Leonard G. Warren be admitted as a member of this Society.

Adjourned.

SAMUEL S. TREAT, *Secretary.*



*Quarterly Meeting.*

July 12th, 1831.

Present, 13 members. As the Secretary Dr. Treat was not present, and the minutes of the last meeting required some explanations, it was resolved to dispense with reading them.

The President stated to the Society that he had received a communication from Dr. Osborne declining to be made a member, and requesting him to return his diploma, in consequence of his determination to leave the city, which request the President stated he had granted.

The Librarian, Dr. McLachlan, reported the state of the Library, whereupon it was resolved to accept said report and record the same on the minutes of the Society.

The following is the report, viz.:

Statement of the library of the Albany County Medical Society reported at the quarterly meeting July 12th, 1831.

D. M. McLachlan, *Librarian*.

|   | Vol. Nos |
|---|----------|
| Accum on Culinary Poisons, vol. 1.  | 1.       |
| American Journal of Medical Sciences, vols. 1, 2, 3,<br>and Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. | 3. 9.    |
| American Medical Recorder, vols. 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10,<br>11, 12, 13, 14. Nos. 29, 30, 32, 45, 46.   | 10. 5.   |
| Bateman's Willan's Plates of Cutaneous Diseases,<br>vol. 1.                                       | 1.       |
| Barton's Cullen, vols. 1 and 2.   | 2.       |
| Bateman's Synopsis, vol. 1.   | 1.       |
| Caldwell's Cullen, vols. 1, 2.  | 2.       |
| Dewees' Essay on Parturition, vol. 1.   | 1.       |
| Duncan on Consumption, vol. 1.  | 1.       |
| Eclectic Repertory, vol. 1 to 14 inclusive.   | 14.      |
| Gallup on Epidemics, vol. 1.  | 1.       |
| Hogben's Obstetrical Plates and Treatise, vols. 1, 2, 3.  | 3.       |
| Medical Repository, vols. 6, 7, 8.  | 3.       |
| New-England Medical Journal, vols. 10, 11, 12, 13,<br>14, 15, 16, 17.                             |          |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| New York Medical and Physical Journal, vols, 1,<br>2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Nos. 29, 30, 32. | 7. 3. |
| Philadelphia Journal, vols. 1 to 14 inclusive.  | 14.   |
| Pemberton's Treatise, vol. 1.   | 1.    |
| Read on Nervous Diseases, vol. 1.   | 1.    |
| Scudamore on Gout, vol. 1.  | 1.    |
| Saunders on the Eye, vol. 1.  | 1.    |
| Thompson on Inflammation, vol. 1.   | 1.    |

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Miscellaneous Pamphlets, Correspondence &c. 76. 17.

Missing. American Medical Recorder, No. 31, being No. 3 of vol. 8.

New York Medical and Physical Journal No. 31, being 2, vol. 8.

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Nos. 1 and 2.

The Committee appointed to call on the Mayor for the purpose of obtaining a room in the new City Hall for the use of this Society ; reported, that two of said Committee had called upon him, who informed them that there would be sufficient room, and that the Society would be accommodated, and that as soon as the Hall was finished this business would be attended to.

Adjourned.

JAMES P. BOYD, *Secretary, pro tempore.*

*Quarterly Meeting.*

October 11th, 1831.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Comitia Minora reported that they had examined the diplomas of the following gentlemen, and found them correct. They were accordingly admitted members of the Society, viz.: Abraham Groesbeck of Albany, Edward W. Ford of Albany, John T. Van Alstyne, E. A. Lacey, Luther M. Tracey, Alson Jesse Hallenbake, Richard J. Dusenbury, Correl Humphrey.

The committee appointed to obtain a room in the City

Hall for the use of this Society, reported that this had been effected; and that the south-west room in the third story had been granted for this purpose.

The following resolutions were adopted, viz.:

*Resolved*, That a committee of three, be appointed to investigate the pretensions of certain persons in the city and county, said to be engaged in the practice of Physic and Surgery without license, and that said committee be authorized to deal with such offenders according to law.

*Resolved*, That Drs. B. P. Staats, A. March, W. Noble, constitute that committee.

The credentials of the following gentlemen being approved they were admitted members of the Society, viz.: Drs. David Springsteed, Jonathan H. Case.

Adjourned.

JAMES P. BOYD, *Secretary, pro tem.*

### *Anniversary Meeting.*

January 10th, 1832.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The following gentlemen were present, viz.: Drs. William Bay, Chas. D. Townsend, Peter Wendell, Joel A. Wing, Platt Williams, P. Van OLinda, H. Van OLinda, B. P. Staats, Jno. W. Bay, Jas. McNaughton, P. McNaughton, Jas. P. Boyd, Jno. James, Roger Viets, Alden March, J. W. Hinkley, H. Kane, Spalding, Johnson, Fredenburgh, E. S. Burton, Peter P. Staats, Brownell, Noxon, Van Antwerp, Ford, Lowe, Dusenbury, Groesbeck, O'Donnel, Jas. M. Brown, N. V. Winne, H. Greene, Stiles, Isaac Hempstead, Francis N. Selkirk, Van Zandt, Markay, Saml. S. Treat, Rockwell, Murphey, Crosby, D. M. McLachlan, Jno. F. Townsend, Lacy, Lay, Hun, Bronson, Lowe, Gregory, Coy, Springsteed, Christie, Burrows, Van Alstyne, Tracey, Humphrey, Case, Hallenbake, Warren.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and approved, the Society proceeded to the election of officers

for the ensuing year, and the following gentlemen were chosen.

Dr. Alden March, *President*.

Dr. Guy Spalding, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Elisha S. Burton, *Secretary*.

Dr. Correl Humphrey, *Treasurer*.

Dr. Henry Van Antwerp, *Librarian*.

Drs. Michael Freligh, James S. Lowe, Alva W. Rockwell, Henry Greene, and Samuel Shaw, *Censors*.

Drs. John James, Henry Van Antwerp, and Benj. Van Zandt, *Purchasing Committee*.

It was on motion resolved to expunge the resolution adopted by the Society in January, 1830, relating to the admission of members.

The following persons were admitted members of the Society, viz.: Drs. Stephen D. Hand, Jarvis Barney,\* Platt Wicks, and J. W. Lay.

The following alterations of the by-laws were proposed and adopted, viz.:

For Art. 1st of Section 3d, the following was substituted. "Any physician or surgeon having a license by the laws of this state to practice his profession, shall after compliance with the requisitions of the statute be a member of the Society and be entitled to all its privileges."

Art. 3d, Section 3d, relating to fines for non-attendance at annual meetings, was expunged.

Adjourned.

JAMES P. BOYD, *Secretary, pro tem*.

### *Special Meeting of the Society.*

March 1st, 1832.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The President stated the object of the meeting whereupon Dr. James offered the following resolution, viz.:

*Resolved*, That this Society, having heard with deep re-

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\* Dr. Jarvis Barney died March 3d, 1838, at the age of thirty-three years.

gret the announcement of the decease of our late associate and Secretary, Saml. S. Treat, tender our condolence to his relatives; that we attend the funeral in a body, and that we wear the usual badge of mourning for one month.

Motioned, by Dr. Greene, that a committee of three be appointed to convey the transactions of the Society to the relatives of the deceased. Whereupon the President appointed Drs. Wendell, P. McNaughton, and James as that committee.

Adjourned.

E. S. BURTON, *Secretary*.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

April 10th, 1832.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The minutes of the anniversary and of the special meeting, March 1st, 1832, read and approved.

Motioned, by Dr. James McNaughton, that all physicians becoming members of this Society pay an initiating fee of three dollars.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary correspond with the physicians residing out of the city to ascertain if there are any persons practicing medicine without a license, or if there are any physicians practicing without being members of this Society.

On motion, the Treasurer was ordered to call upon all persons indebted to this Society and report the same.

Dr. Greene read a paper on Medical Police, and Dr. James on Scarlatina.

Motioned, by Dr. J. McNaughton, that the thanks of this Society be presented to Drs. Greene and James, and that they furnish a copy of their communications for deposit in the archives of this Society.

Adjourned.

E. S. BURTON, *Secretary*.



June 15th, 1832.

Society met pursuant to notice. After calling to order the President read a letter from the Mayor, requesting a meeting of the Society for the purpose of devising means for the prevention of, or arresting the progress of the Asiatic cholera\* if it should exist.

On motion of Dr. Peter Wendell, that a committee of five be appointed to draft a recommendatory letter to the board of health respecting cholera.

On motion of Dr. Jas. McNaughton, that the committee report to this Society at seven o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

Motioned, by Dr. Greene, that the Society appoint the committee.

On motion, Dr. Jonathan Eights was appointed chairman of said committee. On motion, that the remainder of the committee consist of Dr. Wm. Bay, Jas. McNaughton, Henry Greene and Dr. Peter Wendell.

Motioned, by Dr. Wendell, that the President and Secretary be added to the committee.

Adjourned.

E. S. BURTON, *Secretary*.

*Special Meeting.*

July 21st, 1832.

Society met pursuant to notice.

Motioned, by Dr. James, that that part of the minutes of the last quarterly meeting be accepted with the exception of the resolution relating to the initiating fee.

Motioned, by Dr. James, that the physicians meet at

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\* A Medical Staff was organized under the direction of the Board of Health, consisting of Drs. Eights (Chairman of Medical Staff), Wing, Greene, Bay, Townsend, Wendell, James, McNaughton, and March, and rendered service, advisory and professional, during the prevalence of the Cholera. Dr. Barent B. Statts was Health-Officer of the Port. Special and extra service was rendered by other members of the Society, who were not connected with the Medical Staff.

the City Hall daily between seven and eight o'clock P. M. for the purpose of conversation relative to the present epidemic, and that an album be kept at the same place in which the physicians are requested to enter the names of all persons deceased\* at all hours of the day, and that the Secretary cause the above to be published in all the daily papers.

Adjourned.

E. S. BURTON, *Secretary*.

*Special Meeting.*

August 18th, 1832.

Society met pursuant to notice. The credentials of Dr. Beriah Douglas were presented for the purpose of admitting him a member of this Society.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Douglas's credentials be referred to the Comitia Minora to report at the next quarterly meeting.

Adjourned.

E. S. BURTON, *Secretary*.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

January 8th, 1833.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The Secretary called the roll and forty-six members answered to their names.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The President then delivered his address.

On motion of Dr. Barent P. Staats, we proceeded to the election of officers. The President declared the following gentlemen elected officers of this Society for the ensuing year, viz.:

Dr. Alden March, *President*.

Dr. Guy Spalding, *Vice-President*.

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\* The number of cases of cholera reported to the Board of Health in 1832 was 1,147, of which 422 were fatal. The greatest number occurred in July. In 1834 there were 124 cases and 78 deaths.

Dr. Elisha S. Burton, *Recording Secretary*.

Dr. Obadiah Crosby, *Corresponding Secretary*.

Dr. Correl Humphrey, *Treasurer*.

Dr. John Stiles, *Librarian*.

Drs. Saml. Shaw, Henry Bronson, Edward W. Ford, Benj. B. Fredenburgh, and Peter B. Noxon, *Censors*.

Dr. John James, *Delegate to State Medical Society*.

Drs. Henry Van Antwerp, Jarvis Barney, and Francis N. Selkirk, *Purchasing Committee*.

On motion of Dr. Eights that the Secretary make out a new list of members, omitting those who are dead or have removed from the county.

Secretary's report read and accepted.

Librarian's report read and referred to a committee, consisting of Drs. Case, Hinkley, and Dorr.

Treasurer's report read and referred to a committee consisting of Drs. Shaw, Van Denmark, and Moore.

On motion of Dr. Bronson, that a resolution passed Jan'y 12th, 1832, respecting the funds of the Society, be expunged.

*Resolved*, As the sense of this Society, that the time has arrived when a public hospital is required in this city and that the Society recommend the subject to the attention of the city authorities.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to present the above resolution, viz. Drs. Greene, Bronson, and Ford.

*Resolved*, That two hundred copies of the by-laws be printed. The following gentlemen were appointed printing committee, viz.: Drs. Humphrey, Van Antwerp, and Stiles.

*Resolved*, That the following be added to the by-laws, viz.: section 1st, article 2d.

Order to be observed in transacting business at the anniversary meeting of the Society.

1st. After the Society has been called to order the roll shall be called.

- 2d. The minutes of the last meeting shall be read.
  - 3d. The President shall deliver his address.
  - 4th. The admission of new members.
  - 5th. The Treasurer, Librarian, and committees shall make their reports.
  - 6th. Appointment of committees.
  - 7th. Amendment of by-laws.
  - 8th. Miscellaneous business.
  - 9th. The election of officers shall take place.
- It shall be the duty of the President to deliver an address at the anniversary meeting.

Adjourned.

E. S. BURTON, *Secretary*.

April 10th, 1833.

Society met pursuant to notice. There being no business the Society adjourned.

E. S. BURTON, *Secretary*.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

January 14th, 1834.

Society met pursuant to notice ; the minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

The roll being called, sixty-five members answered to their names. The President then delivered his address.

On motion of Dr. J. McNaughton, the thanks of this Society be presented to him and that he be requested to furnish a copy for the archives of the Society. Dr. Sabalis presented his credentials for membership and they were referred to a committee consisting of Drs. P. Van OLinda, Wm. Bay, and Jonathan Eights.

The following gentlemen presented their credentials and were admitted members, viz.: Drs. Wm. J. Radcliff and Samuel Dickson.

The resignation of Dr. Correl Humphrey, Treasurer, read and accepted.



The Treasurer's report read and accepted.

The Secretary's report read and accepted.

The Librarian's report read and referred to a committee consisting of Drs. Williams, J. James, and Van Antwerp.

The President read a memorial to the legislature.

On motion we went into the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the following gentlemen were elected:

Dr. Barent P. Staats, *President*.

Dr. Benjamin B. Fredenburgh, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Herman Wendell, *Recording Secretary*.

Dr. Wm. J. Radcliff, *Corresponding Secretary*.

Dr. Jarvis Barney, *Treasurer*.

Dr. David McLachlan, *Librarian*.

Drs. Jas. P. Boyd, John W. Hinkley, Peter McNaughton, Leonard G. Warren, and Jonathan H. Case, *Censors*.

• Adjourned.

E. S. BURTON, *Secretary*.

P. S. The committee on Dr. Sabalis's credentials report that they have examined them and recommend that he be admitted a member of this Society.

E. S. BURTON, *Secretary*.

*Special Meeting.*

Feb'y 26th, 1834.

The Society met pursuant to notice. By order of the President. Present, Drs. B. P. Staats, Jas. McNaughton, P. McNaughton, P. Van O Linda, O. Crosby, A. Groesbeck, J. Stiles, Jarvis Barney, Herman Wendell, Connelly, and Armsby. The President read a letter from the Treasurer in relation to the funds of the Society, when the following resolution was offered by Jas. McNaughton, M. D.

Seconded and carried.

*Resolved*, That a receipt from the present Treasurer, J.



Barney, to Dr. Crosby for the money left with him by the late Treasurer shall be a lawful receipt for the same.

The Society then adjourned.

HERMAN WENDELL, *Secretary*.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

April 8th, 1834.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The following gentlemen were present: Drs. Henry Greene, Jas. P. Boyd, Bernhard Sabalis, E. S. Burton, Sidney Sawyer, Jarvis Barney, Herman Wendell.

The President of the Society being absent it was, on motion of Dr. H. Greene,

*Resolved*, That Dr. Jas. P. Boyd be appointed President *pro tem*.

The minutes of the Anniversary and special meetings having been read and approved it was, on motion.

*Resolved*, That we do now

Adjourn.

HERMAN WENDELL, M. D., *Secretary*.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

July 8th, 1834.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The following members of the Society were present.

The President of the Society, Drs. Barent P. Staats, Alden March, Henry Van Antwerp, James H. Armsby, W. Newcomb, N. L. Hungerford, L. G. Warren, J. H. Case, Benj. B. Fredenburgh, Herman Wendell, and Frederick Crounse (afterwards admitted a member).

The minutes of the last quarterly meeting were read, and on motion were approved.

The following resolution, offered by Dr. A. March, and seconded by Dr. H. Van Antwerp, was carried.

*Resolved*, That the President be authorized to discontinue the several subscriptions for Periodical Magazines, at present subscribed for by this Society.

Dr. Frederick Crounse of West Guilderland, on presenting the necessary documents, was admitted a member of the Society.

No further business appearing the Society then adjourned.

HERMAN WENDELL, M. D., *Secretary*.

*Special Meeting.*

July 22d, 1834.

The Society met pursuant to notice. By order of the President. Seventeen members present.

The object of the meeting having been stated, it was on motion of Dr. Joel A. Wing, seconded by the President,

*Resolved*, That the members of this Society meet at the Mayor's court room on the morning of the 24th inst. to attend the funeral obsequies of Genl. La Fayette, and also that we wear crape on the left arm for thirty days.

It having been stated to the Society by the President, that the Legislature of the State of New York at their last session passed a law for the protection of the people of this state from quackery in the practice of physic and surgery, and also for the protection of the medical profession in their just rights, and believing that a number of persons not legally authorized were practicing physic and surgery in this county for fee and reward; therefore, in order to protect ourselves and the people of this county from such illegal practices, it was, on motion of Dr. Henry Van Antwerp, seconded by Dr. H. Greene,

*Resolved*, That the President and Secretary of this Society be requested to commence prosecutions against all persons practicing medicine and surgery contrary to law in this city and county.

It was, on motion of Dr. Samuel Shaw,

*Resolved*, That a committee of three individuals be appointed to examine the credentials of Bernhard Sabalis, and report at the next meeting of this Society.

The President named, as that committee, Drs. S. Shaw, H. Greene and P. Van OLinda.

No further business appearing, the Society then adjourned.

HERMAN WENDELL, M. D., *Secretary*.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

November 21st, 1834.

The Society met pursuant to notice. The minutes of last meeting were approved.

Nine members present.

The President, from the committee appointed to prosecute all illegal practitioners, reported, that prosecution had been commenced (and a verdict given for the Society) against George Cook; also a second suit against George Cook, which terminated favorably to the Society in the justice's court, which suit has been carried to a higher court. Suit has also been commenced against John Thomson, which suit is in progress.

On motion of Dr. Jas. McNaughton, seconded by Dr. Herman Wendell, it was resolved that the committee, appointed at the last meeting of the Society to inspect Dr. Sabalis's credentials, be discharged from that duty.

It was then, on motion, resolved that we adjourn.

HERMAN WENDELL, M. D., *R. Secretary*.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

January 13th, 1835.

The Society met pursuant to public notice, according to the Statutes of the Society. Fifty members present.

Proceedings of last meeting approved.

It was, on motion of Dr. Eights,

*Resolved*, That the diplomas and certificates of gentlemen applying for admission into this Society be referred to a committee to report at a future meeting of this Society. Several applications were so referred. The commit-

tee consists of Dr. J. Eights, James McNaughton, and Charles D. Townsend.

Dr. Sawyer offered a resolution concerning the library, which was laid on the table.

Report of officers.

The Treasurer, Dr. Barney, reported that at a special meeting of the Society held on the 26th of February last, he received from the Ex-Treasurer, through the hands of Dr. O. Crosby, eight dollars sixty cents.

Since receiving the above, he has received from the present Secretary, Dr. Herman Wendell, ten dollars, received by him for diplomas.

He has also paid to Hoffman & White, bills amounting to four dollars for printing; also to Weare C. Little four dollars sixty-three cents for balance due on periodicals, &c., leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands of ten dollars.

The report was referred to a committee consisting of Drs. Van Antwerp, Selkirk and Gregory.

The Librarian, Dr. McLachlan, reported the following works as the library of the Society.

Bateman's Synopsis, 1 vol.; Bateman's & Willan's Plates, 1 do.; Thompson's Lectures, 1 do.; Barten's Cullen, 2 do.; Caldwell's Cullen, 2 do.; Richeran's Cullen, 2 do.; Pemberton's Treatise, 2 do.; Philadelphia Journal, 12th and 14th do.; New England do., 7 do.; N. Y. Medical Repository, 6 and 7 do.; Accum on Poisons, Wallis on Diseases, Scudamore on Gout, Reed on Nervous Diseases, Dewee's Parturition, Eclectic Repertory, American Journal of Science, N. Y. Medical & Surgical Journal, Duncan on Consumption, Transactions of N. Y. State Medical Society.

A few volumes remain in possession of former Librarian, Dr. Stiles, which the Librarian has not been able to procure.

Hogben's plates are in possession of Dr. Hempstead.



American Journal of medical science, taken out by Drs. Van Antwerp July 23d, 1834. Report accepted.

The Secretary, Dr. Herman Wendell, reported that fees had been received from Benjamin D. Barlow and Wm. C. Howell for diplomas to the amount of ten dollars, which fees had been handed to the Treasurer of the Society.

Report approved.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, when the following gentlemen were elected.

Dr. Barent P. Staats, *President*.

Dr. Peter B. Noxon, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Herman Wendell, *Secretary*.

Dr. Jarvis Barney, *Treasurer*.

Dr. Henry Van Antwerp, *Librarian*.

Drs. P. McNaughton, James P. Boyd, Jonathan H. Case, Francis N. Selkirk, and Leonard G. Warren, *Censors*.

Drs. Jonathan Eights, Joel A. Wing, and David McLachlan, *Purchasing Committee*.

Dr. Henry Greene offered the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, This Society having been informed of the death of our late fellow member, Correl Humphrey, M. D., who died at Calcutta on the 21st of May, 1834, from an injury received while on a voyage to that place, the principal object of which was professional improvement, therefore

*Resolved*, That while this Society highly commend and approve the zeal and professional spirit, which prompt the younger members of our profession to visit foreign countries for purpose of professional improvement, we deeply deplore this afflictive dispensation of Divine Providence, which has thus cut off in early life a fellow member of our Society, who from studious habits, correct moral deportment, and a faithful discharge of the duties of his profession, gave assurances of continued respectability and increasing useful-



ness, had his life been prolonged to pursue his professional career.

*Resolved*, That this Society tender their condolence to the family connections, and friends of the deceased and assure them that we are fully sensible of the loss which they in common with ourselves have sustained by the afflictive dispensation.

*Resolved*, That the foregoing resolutions be entered upon the minutes of our Society in connection with the records of this meeting that a copy be furnished by the Secretary to the family of the deceased, and that they also be printed.

The resolution offered by Dr. Sawyer having been called up, Dr. Platt Williams proposed the following amendment which was adopted.

That a committee of three be appointed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a medical reading room to be supported by contribution or otherwise as shall be hereafter proposed. The President appointed the committee which consists of Drs. Platt Williams, Alden March, and Sydney Sawyer.

Dr. Platt Williams, from a committee appointed at the last anniversary meeting to inquire into the condition of the library of the Society, reported it to consist of the works named above in the report of the Librarian.

Report accepted.

Dr. Van Antwerp from the committee to whom were referred the reports of the Treasurer have examined the said reports and find them correct, and move that they be accepted, which was accordingly done.

The Society then adjourned.

HERMAN WENDELL, M. D., *Secretary*.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

April 14th, 1835.

The Society met pursuant to notice, given in the public

newspapers. The President, Secretary, and several members present.

No business appearing, the Society adjourned.

HERMAN WENDELL, M. D., *Secretary*.

*Special Meeting.*

May 1st, 1835.

The Society met pursuant to public notice. The following members present.

President, Drs. March, Greene, James, Cogswell, O'Donnel, Sawyer, Crosby, Burton, Stiles, Van Antwerp, Dorr, Ford, Hinkley, Gregory, and Shaw.

The committee to whom was referred the questions in relation to a dispensary, vaccine institution, library, medical reading room, &c., &c. Drs. Williams, March, and Sawyer made a voluminous report which was adopted. A committee to circulate the constitution, and to procure signatures, was appointed, consisting of same committee, together with Drs. James, Greene, and President, Dr. Staats; they were also enjoined to consult with common council concerning the dispensary.

Society then adjourned.

HERMAN WENDELL, M. D., *Secretary*.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

July 21st, 1835.

The Society met pursuant to notice. There not being a quorum of members present, no business was transacted.

HERMAN WENDELL, M. D., *Secretary*.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

October 13th, 1835.

The Society met pursuant to public notice being given in the several city papers. The following members present.

President, Dr. B. P. Staats, and Drs. Jas. McNaughton, Peter McNaughton, John James, Joel A. Wing, Alden

March, Wm. O'Donnel, James P. Boyd, H. Kane, J. Hallenbake, Burton, and Herman Wendell.

Dr. Staats stated that as several medical gentlemen had applied for certificates of membership, he had examined their diplomas, found them correct, and if the Society authorized him he would give them certificates of membership. It was, on motion of Dr. Wing, resolved that the President be authorized to grant certificates to those gentlemen who in his opinion have the necessary diplomas, &c.

Dr. James McNaughton stated that inasmuch as the State Medical Society had enjoined upon county societies to institute an initiation fee, this Society do hereby resolve that an initiation fee of three dollars be required and demanded from each person joining this Society from and after the passage of this resolution; it was, after discussion, laid on the table for consideration at the anniversary meeting.

The Society then on motion adjourned until the anniversary meeting.

HERMAN WENDELL, M. D., *Secretary*,

*Anniversary Meeting.*

January 12th, 1836.

Society met pursuant to public notice being given in the city papers, according to the by-laws of the Society. Twenty-nine members of the Society present.

The minutes of the last quarterly meeting were read and approved unanimously.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, when the following gentlemen were declared elected.

Dr. Barent P. Staats, *President*.

Dr. Alva W. Rockwell, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Herman Wendell, *Secretary*.

Dr. Jarvis Barney, *Treasurer*.

Dr. Henry Van Antwerp, *Librarian*.

Drs. John F. Townsend, Hazael Kane, Abraham Groesbeck, Frederick Crounse, and David Springstead, *Censors*.

Written reports were received from the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, which were accepted and approved. A verbal report was made by the Librarian, when it was resolved, that the Librarian be requested to report at the next meeting of the Society, a list of all works in his possession, and also a list of those missing.

It was on motion of Dr. Greene, seconded by Dr. J. W. Bay, resolved that the Secretary discontinue advertising all notices for meetings of the Society except special.

*Resolved*, Unanimously, that from and after this date an initiation fee of *three dollars* be demanded from all persons joining this Society.

*Resolved*, That Jonathan Eights, Charles D. Townsend, and James McNaughton, be a committee to examine credentials of persons applying for admission to the Society.

The Society then adjourned.

It was also resolved, that five dollars be contributed to the State Medical Society, towards their prize fund, &c.

HERMAN WENDELL, *Secretary*.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

April, 1836.

No quorum.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

July 13th, 1836.

No quorum.

*Quarterly Meeting.*

October 4th, 1836.

No quorum.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

January 10th, 1837.

Society met pursuant to public notice being given in two city papers, according to the by-laws of the Society.

Eighteen members answered to their names. Society then admitted the following: Drs. Van Rensselaer, Sewall, Carter, Priest, Rossman, Van Buren, Trotter, Grant, and G. Spalding, members of the Society, and refused unani- mously to admit J. G. Rosenstein the homœopathist, who is in connection with quacks. The Society then proceeded to the election of officers, when the following gentlemen were elected :

Dr. John W. Bay, *President*.

Dr. L. G. Warren, *Vice-President*.

Dr. A. Groesbeck, *Secretary*.

Dr. J. F. Townsend, *Treasurer*.

Dr. David McLachlin, *Librarian*.

Drs. Jas. P. Boyd, P. C. Dorr, H. Van OLinda, P. McNaughton, J. H. Case, *Censors*.

Delegate to the State Medical Society, Peter Van OLinda.

A committee, consisting of Drs. Eights, Boyd and March, were appointed a committee to make inquiries in relation to the library, and report at the first quarterly meeting of the Society.

The Society then adjourned.

HERMAN WENDELL, M. D., *Secretary*.

#### *Anniversary Meeting.*

January 9th, 1838.

The Society met pursuant to public notice. The following gentlemen were present, viz.: Drs. James McNaughton, Jonathan Eights, Alden March, Peter McNaughton, Henry Greene, Joel A. Wing, Peter Van OLinda, James P. Boyd, B. P. Staats, H. Van OLinda, H. Kane, James Brown, Isaac Hempstead.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and approved, the Society proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the following gentlemen were chosen :



Dr. Jas. P. Boyd, *President*.

Dr. Peter McNaughton, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Abraham Groesbeck, *Secretary*.

Dr. Henry Greene, *Treasurer*.

Dr. D. McLachlan, *Librarian*.

Drs. B. P. Staats, Alden March, Henry Van OLinda, L. G. Warren, Saml. Dickson, *Censors*.

The following resolution was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer refund to Dr. Peter Van OLinda, Delegate to S. M. Society five dollars, which he has paid in behalf of the Society to the prize fund; and also five dollars due for the ensuing year. Dr. Van Buren presented himself for admission; his diploma was referred to the Comitia Minora to report on at the next quarterly meeting.

The Society then adjourned.

A. GROESBECK, *Secretary*.

#### *Anniversary Meeting.*

January 8th, 1839.

The Society met pursuant to public notice. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On motion of Dr. Staats, Drs. Peter Van Buren and John Wilson were admitted as members.

Dr. John Babcock presented himself for admission; his diploma was referred to the Comitia Minora. A committee, consisting of Drs. Peter Van Buren, Peter P. Staats and John W. Hinkley, was appointed to examine the Treasurer's report. The Society then proceeded to the election of officers. The following gentlemen were elected:

Dr. James P. Boyd, *President*.

Dr. Peter McNaughton, *Vice-President*.

Dr. A. Groesbeck, *Secretary*.

Dr. H. Van OLinda, *Treasurer*.

Dr. John Wilson, *Librarian*.

Drs. Barent P. Staats, Peter Van Buren, John W. Hinkley, Peter P. Staats, and Benjamin Fredenburgh, *Censors*.

Dr. John Van Alstyne presented his diploma, and on motion of Dr. Staats was admitted to the Society.

The following resolutions were then adopted, viz.:

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed whose duty it shall be to examine the county records for the purpose of reporting the names of all those pretenders of medicine who practice contrary to law, and that they have full power to prosecute in the name of the Society all who have not complied with the requisitions of the revised statutes. This committee to consist of Drs. James McNaughton, B. P. Staats,\* and John Van Alstyne.

\* After the publication of the Semi-Centennial address before the Medical Society of the county of Albany, which I had the honor to deliver on the 11th of November, 1856, among the pleasant complimentary notes that I received was one from the late Lemuel Jenkins, Esq., a portion of which as it refers to this committee, is subjoined.

*"Albany, Nov. 14th, 1856.*

"MY DEAR SIR.                \*                \*                \*                \*

“But my object in writing this note was not so much to speak of Dr. Wing, as to mention an incident, suggested to my memory by your remarks on the laws and litigation in relation to irregular practitioners, otherwise called *quacks*.

“In the years 1832 and '33, Dr. John Thomson, the vapor bath and patent medicine man (*and the son of his Father*), was flourishing here in the green field of a large practice, and I was at that time a justice of the justice's court of this city. In one of these years Dr. B. P. Staats, then President (I believe) of the County Medical Society, brought a suit in that court, in their behalf, against Dr. Thomson, for practicing without a license. The cause was tried before myself and a jury. It was proved that Dr. T. attended a sick woman, and administered his patent medicine, bottles A, No. 1, to A, No. 6; and that he charged and received \$2 for medical attendance, in addition to his charges for the patent medicine. Dr. T. did not dispute these facts, but set up as a defence to the action, his patent under the patent laws of the United States; that the laws of the state were invalid, as conflicting with a law of the United States, which authorized him to use and sell those medicines under his patent, which he produced in court.

"After argument, I overruled his defence, and instructed the jury to

*Resolved*, That the by-laws of this Society, together with the resolutions subsequently adopted for its government and now in force be referred to a committee to amend and revise the same and report at the next anniversary meeting. The chair appointed Drs. Jon. Eights, Peter Van OLinda, and Peter Van Buren to constitute this committee.

Adjourned.

A. GROESBECK, *Secretary*.

*Anniversary Meeting.*

Jan. 14th, 1840.

The Society met pursuant to public notice.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The report of the Secretary was read and approved.

The report of the Librarian was then read and on motion of Dr. Eights a committee of three was appointed to investigate the state of the library, said committee to consist of Drs. Wing, P. Van OLinda, and McLachlan.

find for the plaintiff, which they did, to the amount of \$10. Dr. Thomson appealed to the Court of Common Pleas, where my decision was confirmed. He then appealed to the Supreme Court, where he was again defeated.

"The case interested me because it presented, at first view, an apparent conflict between the laws of the U. S. and those of the state, and the grave question which has several times arisen in the courts, to what extent the state has a constitutional right to enforce its sanitary laws and police regulations, although they may be apparently in collision with a law of the United States on similar subjects.

"I decided in Thomson's case, that there was no such collision, but that there was room enough for both laws to operate, without interference; that Dr. Thomson had the exclusive right to use and vend Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, but had not a right to take fees for administering the same. Whether this law case will interest you or not I cannot anticipate, but take the liberty to send it to you with the renewed expression of my gratification in reading your excellent address, and of my sincere regard.

"L. JENKINS.

"Albany, Nov. 14th, 1856.

"DR. S. D. WILLARD."

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers and the following gentlemen were elected :

Dr. Jonathan Eights, *President*.

Dr. Peter McNaughton, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Peter Van Buren, *Secretary*.

Dr. H. Van OLinda, *Treasurer*.

Dr. J. H. Trotter, *Librarian*.

Drs. Henry Greene, J. W. Hinkley, B. P. Staats, J. H. Case, and J. S. Van Alstyne, *Censors*.

On motion of Dr. Wing, the Society adjourned to Jan. 28th, 1840, at 3 o'clock P. M.

A. GROESBECK, *Secretary*.

*Adjourned Anniversary Meeting.*

Jan. 28th, 1840.

The Society met pursuant to adjournment and to public notice duly given.

Present, Drs. Eights, P. Staats, J. W. Hinkley, J. S. Van Alstyne, P. Williams, P. McNaughton, J. Wilson, P. Van OLinda, H. Van OLinda, and P. Van Buren.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Hinkley, from committee, appointed to examine Treasurer's accounts, submitted a written report, concluding with a recommendation that a committee be appointed to examine the books and papers of the Secretary for the purpose of ascertaining, what amount has been received for diplomas during the years 1836, '37, '38, and '39.

On motion the report was accepted.

The President appointed the following a committee to examine the books and papers of Secretary, as recommended. Drs. P. Staats, Wing, and Hinkley.

Dr. Wing, from committee appointed to examine the state of the library, reported as follows :

The committee appointed to examine the library belonging to the Albany County Medical Society, have attended

to that duty and respectfully report. That they now find in the library, the following books and pamphlets, viz. :

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Hogben's Obstetrical Plates, 2 Vols.,   | 2.   |
| Hogben's Obstetrical Studies, 1 Vol.,   | 1.   |
| Bateman's Plates on Cutaneous diseases, 1 Vol.,                                       | 1.   |
| Bateman's Synopsis, 1 Vol.,   | 1.   |
| - Eclectic Repository, 14 Vols. (10 and 4),   | 14.  |
| New England Journal of Medical Sciences, 7 Vols.,<br>(10 to 16),                      | 7.   |
| New York, Medical and Physical Journal, 6 Vols.<br>(2 to 7),                          | 6.   |
| Philadelphia, Journal of Medical Sciences, 13 Vols.<br>(from 1 to 14, No. 3 missing), | 13.  |
| Medical Repository, 3 Vols. (6, 7, and 8),  | 3.   |
| Thompson on Inflammation, 1 Vol.,   | 1.   |
| Scudamore on Gout, 1 Vol.,  | 1.   |
| Benton's Cullen, 2 Vols.,   | 2.   |
| Caldwell's Cullen, 2 Vols.,   | 2.   |
| Saunders on the Eye, 1 Vol.,  | 1.   |
| Pemberton's Treatise, 1 Vol.,   | 1.   |
| Duncan on Consumption, 1 Vol.,  | 1.   |
| Reid on Nervous Affections, 1 Vol.,   | 1.   |
| Deweese on Difficult Parturition, 1 Vol.,   | 1.   |
| Accum on Culinary Poisons, 1 Vol.,  | 1.   |
| Cullen's Practice, 2 Vols.,   | 2.   |
| American Journal of Medical Sciences, 3 Vols.,  | 3.   |
| American Medical Recorder, 5 Nos.   | Nos. |
| 29, 30, 32, 45, and 46.   | 5.   |
| American Journal of Medical Sciences, (from No. 7 to<br>33, No. 26 missing),          | 26.  |
| New York Medical and Physical Journal, 4 Nos.,  | 4.   |
| Magill on Typhus Fever, Copies,   | 3.   |
| Hobson on Iodine, do.   | 1.   |
| Transactions of the State Medical Society, 8 or                                       | 10.  |

In all 65 bound volumes, 48 or 9 numbers and pamphlets.



The bound volumes are in tolerable condition, but the numbers are in much need of being bound. Hogben's Plates, require the hands of a book binder to put them in condition for use.

The committee are unable to state with accuracy the names and numbers of missing volumes, but believe there are but few *volumes* lost,—although there would seem to be a considerable number of unbound *periodicals* absent. We were unable to find any accurate list of the original library. Orfila on Poisons, and a very few others, now not found, are remembered to have been purchased for the library.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. A. WING, *Chairman*.

P. VAN OLINDA.

The above report was accepted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

P. Van Buren, from committee appointed to revise the by-laws of the Society, reported that they had given the subject all due consideration, and herewith submitted, as the result of their labors, a draft of revised laws, for the consideration of the Society. The same having been read, on motion the report was accepted.

It was then resolved that it be re-read by sections, and the question of adoption put on each section separately. After discussion held thereon, and some amendments made, it was unanimously adopted, in the words following. Vide (original draft, on file in Secretary's possession).

On motion of Dr. Wilson, the by-laws as now adopted were referred to the Comitia Minora, to have them printed, as soon as there shall be funds in the treasury to defray such expense.

On motion of Dr. P. Van OLinda, it was

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer of this Society pay to the Delegate five dollars, paid to the State Medical Society's

prize fund in 1839, and that hereafter, this Society will regularly appropriate five dollars to said fund, out of any funds in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

P. VAN BUREN, *Secretary*.

Albany, Jan. 28th, 1840.

*Semi-Annual Meeting.*

June 9th, 1840.

The Society met pursuant to public notice, at the City Hall, and was called to order by the President, Dr. Eights.

Present, Drs. Eights, P. McNaughton, H. Greene, H. Van OLinda, J. S. Van Alstyne, A. Wilson, Wing, P. P. Staats, H. Van OLinda, P. Van Buren.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On motion, it was ordered that the by-laws, as adopted at the last annual meeting, be recorded by the Secretary.

Dr. P. Staats, from the committee appointed to examine the books and papers of the Secretary, and to report the amount of funds received for diplomas, from 1836 to '39, reports that they have discharged that duty, and find by the credits of the Society about thirty-five dollars. That the vouchers for the expenditure of the same are not among the Secretary's papers. After remarks made thereon it was resolved, that the committee continue their investigation, and examine also the books and papers of the Treasurer, and if deficiencies are found to exist, to collect the same from those who shall be found indebted to the Society.

Dr. J. McNaughton offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That the President of this Society notify all persons, who are now practicing physic or surgery in this county without license, to take the necessary steps within two months to become legal practitioners.

*Resolved*, That the names of such persons as neglect to

comply with said resolution, be published in the state paper for the information of the public, that those authorized by law to practice medicine, may be distinguished from irregular practitioners.

On motion, it was resolved, that the above resolutions, be published in the papers of this city.

On motion of Dr. Wilson,

*Resolved*, That the Secretary cause notices of the meetings of this Society to be printed in convenient form, to be directed personally to the members of the Society, previous to each meeting thereof, and that hereafter the publication of notices in the papers be omitted.

On motion, the Society now adjourned.

P. VAN BUREN, *Secretary*.

Albany, June 9th, 1840.

BY-LAWS OF THE ALBANY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY, AS  
ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY, HELD  
JANUARY 28TH, 1840.

SECTION I. *Meetings of the Society.*

Article 1st. This Society shall hold two meetings in each year, to be called the *Annual* and *Semi-Annual* meeting. The annual meeting shall be held on the second Tuesday of November, and the semi-annual on the second Tuesday of June, at 11 o'clock, A. M., in the city of Albany. Five members shall constitute a quorum to transact business, except at the annual meeting, when *nine* members shall be required to proceed to the election of officers.

SECTION II. *Officers and their Duty.*

Art. 1st. The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and five Censors, who shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting of the Society. And if no election take

place on that day, they shall hold their respective offices until the next annual meeting.

Art. 2d. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings ; to preserve order, and regulate the business of the Society ; he shall call special meetings of the Society, on application made to him, or by concurrence of any two members, and shall cause notice thereof to be given by the Secretary. He shall only vote when the members are equally divided on the question before them, and shall at all times deliver the decisions of the Society. On points of order, his decisions shall be final, except on an appeal being taken, when a majority of members present may reverse it.

Art. 3d. In the absence of the President, his duties shall devolve on the Vice-President, and when both are absent, the Society shall elect a President *pro tem*.

Art. 4th. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to attend all meetings, and record the minutes of the Society in a book to be provided for that purpose. He shall give notice of all the regular and special meetings of the Society in such a manner as it shall direct ; and he shall keep a record of the names of all the members of this Society, and the names of those, who are by the Censors thereof, admitted to the practice of Physic and Surgery.

Art. 5th. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer, to take charge, and keep a correct account of moneys belonging to this Society, with the receipts and expenditures thereof ; and to exhibit a statement of the funds once in every year, or as often as shall be required. He shall preserve, for the benefit of the Society, all donations and movable property committed to his charge, and keep an exact register of the same, with the names of the respective donors. He shall at stated meetings of the Society, or at other times, demand from each member, if necessary, the amount due by tax or otherwise, and keep an exact record of the same, with the



Dr. & Cr. of each; and, whenever a majority of members present shall require, report a statement to the Society.

Art. 6th. It shall be the duty of the Censors to examine all candidates applying for license to practice Medicine, or the various branches thereof; who, after such examinations, shall, if they find the candidate qualified, grant him a certificate to that effect, signed by each Censor; which certificate shall entitle him to the diploma of this Society, on application to the President. Not less than three Censors shall constitute a board for the examination of candidates. In case of the absence of one or more of the board of Censors, the President shall appoint a Censor or Censors, *pro tempore*.

### SECTION III. *Admission of Members.*

Art. 1st. Any physician or surgeon having a license by the laws of this state to practice his profession shall, on application at a regular meeting of this Society, after having exhibited satisfactory credentials, and paid to the Treasurer the sum of three dollars initiating fee, be admitted a member thereof.

Art. 2d. The President, Vice-President and Censors shall constitute a *Comitia Minora*, to receive all applications for membership, during the recess of the Society, and they shall report the qualifications of all applicants with their vouchers, to the first meeting of the Society thereafter.

### SECTION IV. *Funds of the Society.*

Art. 1st. Every member of this Society shall pay annually to the Treasurer thereof the sum of one dollar, which, together with the funds derived from other sources, shall constitute the Common Fund of this Society, and shall be appropriated to such purposes, as a majority of its members at any regular meeting shall direct.



SECTION V. *Admission of Students to Practice.*

Art. 1st. Every candidate presenting himself for examination, shall notify his intentions to the President, and the Censors shall, on the day designated by the President, proceed in their examinations.

Art. 2d. Every such candidate receiving a diploma shall on the delivery thereof, pay to the Secretary the sum of five dollars, to be added to the Common Fund of this Society, and shall pay each of the Censors attending his examination three dollars.

SECTION VI. *Exercises of the Society.*

Art. 1st. It shall be the duty of every member to communicate to the Society at its stated meetings the history of important cases, in writing, that may have occurred in his circuit of practice, or to communicate any other useful medical information.

Art. 2d. It shall be the duty of the President, at the annual meeting of the Society, to deliver an address before its members on some medical topic, and it shall be the duty of the Vice-President to perform a like duty at the semi-annual meeting; which addresses shall be open to discussion, and to the remarks or criticism of any member present.

Art. 3d. Every member when he addresses the chair shall rise, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, except he be declared out of order, on appeal made to the President, or to correct a mistake. The President shall have power to call any member to the chair, and may take part in the debate.

Art. 4th. If any member has spoken once on any subject under debate, he shall not speak again to the prevention of any other who had not spoken, and who manifests a desire to speak.

Art. 5th. These by-laws shall not be altered or amend-

ed, except at an annual meeting, and after notice of such intention previously given.

*Order of Business.*

- 1st. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting.
- 2d. Reception of reports from officers of the Society and committees, with all action thereon.
- 3d. The admission of new members.
- 4th. The annual or semi-annual address.
- 5th. Motions, resolutions, &c.; appointments of committees.
- 6th. Election of officers.
- 7th. Alteration of by-laws.

*Annual Meeting.*

November 10th, 1840.

The Society met at the City Hall, at 11 o'clock, A. M. The President being in the chair, called the members to order, when the following gentlemen were ascertained to be present, viz.:

Drs. Jonathan Eights, J. McNaughton, P. McNaughton, H. Greene, P. Van OLinda, H Van OLinda, B. P. Staats, Markay, T. Hun, J. Van Buren, A. March, J. Wilson, L. G. Warren, Hinkley, P. P. Staats, Springsteed, Yates, D. R. Burroughs, and P. Van Buren.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. P. P. Staats, from committee appointed for that purpose, reported the result of their examination of the accounts of the Secretary and Treasurer, from 1836 to 1840, arriving at the following conclusion, viz. That up to the 14th of January, 1840, there appears to be a deficiency in the treasury of \$12.75, for which no vouchers can be found.

Dr. H. Van OLinda reported the present condition of the treasury, stating that the balance in his hands

amounted to \$21.55. The report of the Secretary was also presented and accepted.

The President reported, that in pursuance of the duties devolving on him, he had served notices on the following gentlemen, requiring them to make application for membership to the Society, viz.:

Drs. Wheeler, Martin, Young, Payn, T. Brown, Jenks, J. Northrop, Van Loon, Cogswell, and O'Callaghan.

Of the above, Dr. Jenks had taken the proper steps, to entitle him to become a member of the Society. Dr. Cogswell, had also requested to have his name presented for admission. Dr. Payn also. Whereupon, the following resolution was adopted.

*Resolved*, That any physician practicing in this county who shall submit satisfactory documents to the President, and pay the initiation fee, be admitted by him a member of this Society. The President also reported, that he had served the resolutions adopted at the semi-annual meeting in relation to illegal practitioners, on the following persons, and that no steps had been taken by either of them to become members of the Society, viz.:

James Cox, George Cook, M. D., LL. D., D. D., &c., James Graham, M. D., and C. C. Griffin.

After conversation thereon, it was ordered that the resolutions, directing the publication of the names of those, who refused to become legal practitioners, should be carried into effect, and that their names should have a permanent insertion in the State paper.

On motion of Dr. B. P. Staats, the names of Drs. C. C. Yates, and Markay, were reinstated as members of this Society.

The Secretary presented a memorial from the Monroe County Medical Society, which after having commenced the reading of, was, on motion of Dr. P. Van O'Linda, laid on the table.

The President of the Society now read his annual address, and after remarks thereon the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to its President for the able address delivered by him this day.

The following resolution was then offered and adopted:

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to procure a convenient place, in which to hold the stated meetings of this Society.

The President appointed the following as this committee. P. Van Buren, B. P. Staats, and H. Greene.

The Secretary offered the following, which was adopted.

*Resolved*, That the Comitia Minora procure suitable diplomas, on parchment, for the use of this Society.

The election of officers being in order, the Society proceeded to ballot for the same, when the following was the result:

Dr. Jonathan Eights, *President*.

Dr. P. McNaughton, *Vice-President*.

Dr. P. Van Buren, *Secretary*.

Dr. H. Van OLinda, *Treasurer*.

Dr. J. S. Van Alstyne, *Librarian*.

Drs. H. Greene, P. Van OLinda, J. Wilson, J. Van Buren, and J. S. Van Alstyne, *Censors*.

Dr. B. P. Staats, *Delegate to State Medical Society*.

By unanimous consent, the following preamble and resolution were offered and adopted:

Whereas, This Society, at its meeting in June last, resolved to raise the sum of one dollar from each member, and whereas, it is understood that some of the members, refuse to pay the same;

*Resolved*, That those members who refuse, on being again properly requested, be compelled by law to pay the same.

On motion, the Society now adjourned.

P. VAN BUREN, *Secretary*.



At a special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society held at the City Hall March 3d, 1841.

The President, Dr. Eights stated that the object of the meeting was to get the united voice of the Society, in opposition to the repeal of the law, making it obligatory upon practitioners from a foreign state or country to be examined by the Censors of the State Medical Society, previous to their legal qualifications to practice. Whereupon, a remonstrance, embodying the views of the Society against the repeal, petitioned for by the Monroe County Medical Society, was unanimously agreed upon, and directed to be signed by the President and Secretary, and presented to the legislature.

The following resolution was then presented and after conversation thereon adopted.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to prepare a remonstrance against the bill reported in favor of the Thomsonians, and that said remonstrance be submitted to a future meeting of the Society for its consideration. The committee appointed were P. Van Buren, P. McNaughton, Jon. Eights, and P. P. Staats.

On motion the Society adjourned to meet again at the City Hall on Monday, March 8th, 1841.

P. VAN BUREN, *Secretary*.

#### *Semi-Annual Meeting.*

The Society met pursuant to personal notice served on its members, at the City Hall June 8th, 1841.

Present, five members, enough to form a quorum, to transact business, viz. : The Vice-President, the Secretary, one of the Censors, Dr. H. Greene, and Drs. Jas. McNaughton, and Wing. The Vice-President took the chair and called the meeting to order.

The Secretary read the minutes of the two preceding meetings, and on motion, they were approved.

The committee appointed to procure a room in which to



hold the stated meetings of the Society, reported that inquiries had been made, and that application had been made to the Mayor, who recommended an application to the common council.

*Resolved*, That the committee be continued, and that they be recommended to make the application as indicated by the Mayor, and request, for that purpose the use of the common council chamber.

*Resolved*, That the notices, for the stated meetings of the Society, be hereafter published in the State paper in place of personal notices.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

*Annual Meeting.*

Nov. 9th, 1841.

The Society met at the City Hall at 11 o'clock A. M. At 12 o'clock the President took the chair and called the meeting to order. It was ascertained that the following members were present, viz.:

Drs. Eights, P. Van OLinda, Jas. McNaughton, J. S. Van Alstyne, and P. Van Buren.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On motion Dr. J. O. Flagler was admitted a member of the Society.

The President stated he was prepared to deliver his annual address; but inasmuch as there were not members enough present, to proceed to the election of officers, it was moved that the delivery of the address be deferred to a future meeting of the Society.

On motion of Dr. Van OLinda, it was resolved that this Society will stand adjourned to meet in the common council chamber, on Tuesday evening the 16th inst. at 7 o'clock.

The Society then adjourned.

P. VAN BUREN, *Secretary*.

Albany, Nov. 16th, 1841.

The Society assembled in annual meeting, pursuant to adjournment, at the City Hall, Nov. 16th, 1841. Present, Drs. Eights, P. Van OLinda, J. S. Van Alstyne, H. Greene, J. O. Flagler, and P. Van Buren.

The President took the chair and called the meeting to order. By request, the President then read his annual address, being an investigation into the causes and character of phlegmatia dolens.

After comments on the nature and treatment of the disease, by other members of the Society, the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to the President, for his able and interesting address delivered before its members this evening, and that a copy of the same be requested for future publication.

On motion of Dr. Van OLinda, it was directed, that the resolution adopted heretofore, to publish the names of illegal practitioners be carried into effect, such publication to be signed by the President and Secretary of the Society.

The following were proposed as members of the Society. Dr. Chas. H. Payne, and Dr. U. H. Wheeler.

*Resolved*, That this Society will now adjourn, to reassemble in annual meeting on Tuesday 23d inst., at the City Hall, at 3 o'clock P. M.

The Society then adjourned.

P. VAN BUREN, *Secretary*.

### *Annual Meeting.*

Nov. 23d, 1841.

The Society assembled in annual meeting, pursuant to adjournment, at 3 o'clock P. M., at the City Hall. Present, Drs. P. Van OLinda, J. S. Van Alstyne, B. Fredenburgh, P. Van Buren, H. Van OLinda, Brown, Tracy, H. Greene, and Hempstead.

The presiding officers being absent, Dr. P. Van OLinda was chosen President *pro tem*. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read.

The following resolutions were then, after debate thereon, unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That the President notify those practitioners of medicine, residing in the county of Albany, who have not united themselves to this Society, that they are requested to take the necessary steps for that purpose within thirty days from the date of this notice, or otherwise that their names, with the disqualifications attached to them, be published with the list of illegal practitioners.

*Resolved*, That each of the Censors, furnish at the next meeting of the Society a history either written or verbal of some interesting case.

Dr. U. H. Wheeler, and Dr. O'Callaghan, presented their credentials, and on motion were admitted members of the Society.

On motion the Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, when the following, having received a majority of the votes present, were declared duly elected.

Dr. P. Van Buren, *President*.

Dr. J. S. Van Alstyne, *Vice-President*.

Dr. H. Greene, *Secretary*.

Dr. H. Van OLinda, *Treasurer*.

Dr. J. S. Van Alstyne, *Librarian*.

Drs. P. Van OLinda, B. F. Fredenburgh, H. Greene, Jas. P. Boyd, and U. H. Wheeler, *Censors*.

*Resolved*, That the Society will meet in the common council room, the third Tuesday in December, 21st, at three o'clock, P. M.

The Society then adjourned.

At an adjourned meeting of the Albany County Medical Society at the Supervisors' room, City Hall, Dec. 21st, 1841.

Present, the President, Dr. P. Van Buren, and Drs. J. McNaughton, H. Greene, C. H. Payne, and I. Hempstead.

On account of the small number of members in attendance,

*Resolved*, Unanimously, that the Society adjourn to the 28th inst at 3 o'clock P. M.

H. GREENE, *Secretary*.

P. S. Minutes read and approved.

At an adjourned meeting of the Albany County Medical Society at the City Hall, Supervisors' room, Dec. 28th, 1841. Present,

Dr. P. Van Buren, *President*; Dr. J. S. Van Alstyne, *Vice-President*; Dr. H. Greene, *Secretary*; Drs. J. McNaughton, P. Van O'Linda, E. B. O'Callaghan, U. H. Wheeler, C. H. Payne.

*Resolved*, Unanimously, that Dr. Payne be admitted a member of the Society.

The President read a paper upon the present condition and future prospects of the Society, &c., &c.

Dr. O'Callaghan read a paper upon the violent effects of emetic tartar when applied externally.

Dr. U. H. Wheeler read a paper upon the external use of tobacco in rheumatism and other painful affections of the joints, &c.

Dr. Van Alstyne related a case of severe injury of the knee. Remedies, cupping, blistering, &c.

Society adjourned to 3d Tuesday, 18th of January next, at 8 o'clock, P. M.

H. GREENE, *Secretary*.

Visited the City Hall at the time of the above adjournment and found no one present except the President, Dr. P. Van Buren. No quorum, and no business transacted.

H. GREENE, *Secretary*.

Albany, January 18th, 1842.

P. S. Minutes read and approved.



At a semi-annual meeting of the Albany County Medical Society at the Mayor's room, City Hall, Albany, June 21st, 1842. Present,

Dr. P. Van Buren, *President*; Dr. J. Van Alstyne, *Vice-President*; Dr. H. Greene, *Secretary*; Drs. Wing, B. P. Staats, Wheeler and Jas. McNaughton.

Minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

The Secretary presented the County Clerk's certificate, that Salah B. Fish, M. D., had filed a copy of his diploma in the County Clerk's office, according to the statute regulating the practice of Physic and Surgery in this state.

On motion resolved, that Dr. Salah B. Fish be admitted a member of this Society. Motion past, his admission fees paid, and left in the hands of the Secretary. \$3.00.

The following resolution was submitted by Dr. Jas. McNaughton, viz. :

*Resolved*, That hereafter no person from another state be admitted a member of this Society until he shall have been examined and approved by its Censors.

On motion resolved that the Society adjourn. .

H. GREENE, *Secretary*.

Albany, Nov. 8th, 1842.

Visited the City Hall for the purpose of meeting the Albany County Medical Society, and found no one in attendance except the President, Dr. Peter Van Buren.

H. GREENE, *Secretary*.

*Annual Meeting.*

Nov. 13th, 1843.

The Society met pursuant to notice. Nine members present, viz.: Drs. P. Van, Buren, J. Van, Alstyne, J. Eights, J. McNaughton, P. McNaughton, O'Callaghan, Cogswell, Hun, and Boyd.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, except so much as related to the resolution submitted



by Dr. Jas. McNaughton, which was found to be incorrectly entered. It was therefore, on motion of the latter gentleman,

*Resolved*, To correct the minutes so that the said resolution read as follows, viz.:

*Resolved*, That hereafter no person from another state be admitted as a member of this Society until he shall have exhibited satisfactory evidence of having studied Physic and Surgery agreeably to the laws of this state, and shall have undergone a satisfactory examination before the Censors of this Society, or of the State Medical Society.

On motion of Dr. Hun,

*Resolved*, That a special committee be appointed to investigate the claims of Dr. Ward and others to practice medicine, and the propriety of admitting them as members of the Society, and that the President, Dr. Hun, and Dr. Boyd constitute said committee.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted viz.:

*Resolved*, That the President and Secretary publish a list of the members of the Albany County Medical Society in the Albany city papers, stating at the same time, that the said members are the only persons who have the power to collect by law a compensation for medical services.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers, and the following persons having received a majority of the votes were declared to be elected, viz.:

Dr. P. Van Buren, *President*.

Dr. Jno. S. Van Alstyne, *Vice-President*.

Dr. J. H. Case, *Secretary*.

Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan, *Treasurer*.

Dr. J. H. Trotter, *Librarian*.

Drs. J. P. Boyd, P. Van OLinda, M. F. Cogswell, J. Eights, and Fredenburgh, *Censors*.

The Society then adjourned.

J. P. BOYD, *Secretary, pro tem.*

*Special Meeting.*

Feb. 5th, 1844.

Agreeable to public notice, the Society met at the City Hall; the following members present: Drs. P. Van Deusen, John Van Alstyne, O'Callaghan, J. H. Case, Babcock, F. Crounse, and C. E. Dayton from Berne.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, after correcting a mistake relative to Treasurer; E. B. O'Callaghan having been duly elected to that office, and J. H. Trotter Librarian.

The committee on Dr. Ward report that they did not meet together, but have made inquiry relative to him, but not satisfactory.

*Resolved*, That the committee on Dr. Ward be continued, to report at next meeting.

The object of the meeting having been previously stated in the notices of the same, several gentlemen made application for membership, and were admitted as members with us.

David Martin, M. D., admitted, paid \$1.00; Dr. William J. Young admitted, paid \$1.00; Dr. V. P. Quackenbush, admitted on conditions.

Dr. Lockrow made application, and was referred to a committee on Dr. Ward, and to report on the same at next meeting.

*Resolved*, That the President and Secretary proceed immediately to correct the list, and publish the names of regularly educated and legally authorized physicians practicing in the county of Albany, agreeable to the resolution of last meeting and the special object of this.

*Resolved*, That our delegate to State Medical Society, Dr. B. P. Staats, be handed five dollars by our Treasurer, to pay into that Society.

*Resolved*, That the President and Secretary petition to the legislature now in session for the Society in regard to dissection.

On motion, resolved that the Society now adjourn.

J. H. CASE, *Secretary*.

*Special Meeting.*

1844.

At a special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, called in consequence of the death of Dr. Greene, and held at the City Hall May 13th, 1844, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, We have learned with deep regret of the decease of our respected associate, Henry Greene, M. D., for many years an officer of this Society;

*Resolved*, That in testimony of our respect for the memory of our deceased Brother, we will attend the funeral this afternoon in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

*Resolved*, That the President and Secretary convey to the family of the deceased, in behalf of the Society, an expression of our condolence and sincere sympathy in their afflictive bereavement.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the several papers of this city for publication.

P. VAN BUREN, *President*.

J. H. CASE, *Secretary*.

*Semi-Annual Meeting.*

June 11th, 1844.

The Society met pursuant to notice, six members present. Drs. P. Van Buren, Joel A. Wing, E. B. O'Callaghan, Prof. Hun, M. F. Cogswell, J. H. Case, and Peter McNaughton.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Committee on Dr. Ward reported, that they had examined his diploma and that it appears to have been granted by the Geneva College under the direction of the Rutgers

institution during the year they possessed this right, and therefore it must be admitted as legally correct.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the report on Dr. Ward be laid on the table.

Committee on Dr. Lockrow reported.

Whereas, It appears to the satisfaction of the Society, that Dr. V. B. Lockrow has recourse to advertisements and other dishonorable means to obtain practice.

*Resolved*, That the Society will refuse to admit him as a member.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to report as to the manner in which the law of the legislature passed last winter bears on the statute regulating the practice of physic and surgery heretofore in this state, and will affect the organization of the County Medical Societies, and as to the course which it will be expedient for the Society to pursue under the circumstances.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed by the President accordingly.

The following gentlemen were selected: J. A. Wing, Prof. Hun, and M. F. Cogswell, three, to report next meeting.

An old account bearing date of 1833, '4, '5, of W. C. Little's was presented to the Society for payment.

On motion,

*Resolved*, The account of W. C. Little be referred to the Treasurer with discretionary power to examine receipts and dates, together with the correctness of the same, and if just pay it.

On motion of Prof. Hun,

*Resolved*, That we adjourn, to meet again two weeks from to day at this place at 3 o'clock P. M.; and that public notice be given in the city papers of the same, stating the object of the meeting.

June 11th, 1844.

J. H. CASE, *Secretary*.



*Special Meeting*

Of the Society June 25th, 1844, at the City Hall. Fourteen members present, (14) P. Van Buren, Jonathan Eights, E. B. O'Callaghan, Peter P. Staats, John S. Van Alstyne, James P. Boyd, M. F. Cogswell, James McNaughton, Thomas Hun, Alden March, Peter McNaughton, James H. Armsby, Joel A. Wing, and J. H. Case.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Professor Hun from the committee appointed on the law passed last winter, and its bearing on the organization of the County Medical Societies, proceeded to read report of said committee.

On motion of J. McNaughton,

*Resolved*, That said report be accepted.

After reading and accepting the report, a resolution was drawn up and proposed by Professor J. McNaughton, which read as follows:

*Resolved*, That in the opinion of the Society it would not be conducive to the interest or respectability of the medical profession, at the present time, to apply to the legislature for any alteration in the charters of the State or County Medical Societies; or any legislation on medical subjects whatever.

On motion of Professor A. March:

*Resolved*, That the above resolution be approved and adopted.

On motion, further,

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to publish the report, with the resolution, read as annexed.

*Resolved*, That the same committee, Hun, Wing, and Cogswell, be authorized to get the same published, with an extra number of copies of the same for distribution.

The report of the committee on Dr. Ward was then taken up, there appearing to be a diversity of opinion with regard to his diploma being legally correct, and his application



for membership while professedly practicing homœopathy, &c.

On motion of Dr. Eights,

*Resolved*, That Dr. Ward's application for admission into the Society, be denied.

By E. B. O'Callaghan :

*Resolved*, As the opinion of this Society, that it would promote the interests of the medical profession generally, to separate the department of teaching from that of granting licenses, for practicing physic and surgery, and that the delegate from this Society to the State Medical Society be furnished with a copy of the above resolution, to communicate the same to the State Society, and to call for the opinion and action of that body thereon.

*Resolved*, That the resolution of Dr. O'Callaghan be laid on the table.

On motion of Dr. Hun it was

*Resolved*, That hereafter a list of the members of this Society, in regular standing be published semi-annually in two or more of the city papers.

The Society then adjourned.

J. H. CASE, *Secretary*.

The following is the report read by Dr. Hun at the present meeting, in regard to the late law of the legislature, &c., &c.

The committee, appointed at the last meeting of the Society, to report as to the manner in which the law of last winter bears on the statute regulating the practice of physic and surgery heretofore existing in this state, and how it affects the organization of the State and County Societies, and as to the course which it will be expedient for the Society to pursue under the circumstances, reports as follows :

For the purpose of laying the whole subject before the Society, in an intelligible form, we present the following

summary of the laws regulating the practice of medicine, as they existed in this state previous to May 6th, 1844.

County and State Medical Societies were incorporated, and the terms of admission into the county societies were prescribed by law.

Members of the county societies were the only licensed practitioners of physic and surgery.

All unlicensed persons except Botanic Doctors were prohibited from practicing under penalty of \$25 for each offense. All unlicensed persons without exception, were made incapable of enforcing by legal process, the payment of compensation for services rendered to the sick.

By the act of May 6th, 1844, all unlicensed persons are freed from the penalty for practicing, and the disability of collecting pay for their services. Besides this, they are made liable to civil and criminal prosecutions for mal-practice, gross ignorance, and immoral conduct.

Previous to the passage of this act the law prescribed the mode of becoming a licensed practitioner of medicine, and conferred on such and on the Botanic Doctors the exclusive right to practice. Since the passage of this act the law still prescribes the mode of becoming a licensed practitioner, but gives to all persons of whatever age or sex or education the right to practice, and to enforce the payment of compensation for their services.

Hence, although the organization of the County and State Societies is left as before, it is no longer obligatory on those who practice physic and surgery to become members of the county societies, nor to go through the course of study and the examination requisite for admission into those societies. They have become voluntary associations, which give to their members the title of licensed practitioners, but confer on them no legal rights.

Such is the operation of this act on the laws regulating medical practice. To remove any doubts concerning its

true construction, we affix to this report a letter from the Attorney-General, prepared in answer to a request from one of the committee.

We now proceed to the examination of the question whether the passage of this act calls for any movement on the part of the Society; but first of all, it will be necessary to review the course of legislation in regard to medical practice, and to establish the principles on which such legislation ought to be founded.

Seeing what important duties devolve upon the physician, what weighty interests are confided to his skill and integrity, subject to no control but his own conscience, legislators have always recognized the propriety and necessity of providing men to assume those duties who could offer some guarantees of capacity and honesty and of guarding the public against imposition by the ignorant and unprincipled. Hence laws have been enacted having in view the two-fold object of raising up and organizing a body of competent physicians and of protecting the public against imposition.

To accomplish the former of these objects, the profession has been organized by the establishment of county societies, so that its members may readily be recognized by each other and by the public, may exercise a general supervision over each other, and coöperate to promote the common welfare.

Provision has been made for medical education by the establishment of schools liberally endowed in which students may, at moderate expense, be taught the science and art of medicine. A course of study has been prescribed through which candidates are required to pass before they can be admitted to an examination by which their qualifications are to be tested. After having accomplished this course of study and passed the examination the student is admitted into the profession as one worthy of its honors and fitted to assume its duties.

Thus are attained the first great objects of medical legislation. A body of physicians is created, presenting certain guarantees of capacity and character, and this body is organized so that its members may be readily recognized by the public. These objects and the means by which they are attained we all unite in commending.

If any person with these means of choosing, applies for medical aid to one who can offer no guarantees of proper qualifications, he is guilty of a gross imprudence; but it is at his own risk, and he has to suffer in his own person all the consequences. The law has protected him against imposition, but not against a foolish choice.

It might be supposed that when men have the choice before them of educated physicians presenting evidences of their qualifications, and of others whose main titles seem to be their ignorance and impudence, they would not hesitate to have recourse to the former. But sad experience shows that this is far from being true. We find that men who conduct all their other affairs with prudence and discretion are willing to abandon a medical attendant of tried skill and character for any juggling mountebank whose pretensions would only excite a smile, were it not for the deplorable results to which they give rise.

Struck with this sad spectacle of human credulity and folly in cases in which such important interests are involved, legislators have thought that it was not sufficient to provide educated physicians, and to give the public the means of recognizing them, but have passed laws prohibiting all but regular physicians from practicing. These laws are founded on the assumption that it would be so absurd to have recourse for medical aid to an ignorant person, when it is possible to procure the services of an educated physician, that those who might be tempted to do so, must be treated as incompetent to manage their own concerns. To prevent then therefore, from indulging in such folly, all irregular practice is prohibited under certain penalties.



The laws for educating and organizing a body of physicians were intended to give men the means of acting prudently ; the prohibitory laws were intended to compel men to act prudently.

So long as the public sentiment accords with this view of the legislature, the operation of these prohibitory laws is salutary ; while only a very few silly persons prefer to have recourse to men out of the profession for relief, it seems proper to protect them against their own judgment, just as minors and imbecile persons are not allowed to make contracts by which they might be swindled by knaves. But unfortunately a large portion of the public think that education and science are not necessary to qualify men for medical practice. Numerous sects have sprung up pretending to cure diseases by various processes more or less ridiculous, but all agreeing in this one point, that it is not necessary to pass through the regular course of studies required by law, but that there is a royal road to medical practice which renders such drudgery useless. These sects, absurd as their doctrines may be, have succeeded in gaining followers among the public, and the effect of these restrictive laws, if enforced, must be to prevent all their followers from procuring the kind of medical aid which they prefer. Besides it must be remarked that those who are thus placed under legislative tutelage, are not exclusively the ignorant and imbecile, but that they number in their ranks many persons of education and sagacity who manage all their other affairs with sufficient acuteness and discernment.

However absurd the opinions and conduct of these men may appear to us, we have not for that reason the right to impose on them our ideas of wisdom. If for example, a full grown man who is capable of managing his own business, chooses to call in to reduce a dislocation, a natural bone-setter who avows that he has never seen a skeleton,



in preference to a surgeon who has devoted himself to the study of such accidents, we may deplore his folly and endeavor to persuade him to act more prudently, but we ought not to use compulsion either directly or indirectly. If his conduct is foolish, he alone suffers from it; and as we are not responsible for his folly, we have no right to prevent him from indulging in it.

On this point we have the misfortune to differ with some for whose opinions we have great respect, and we wish to be well understood. None can be more deeply impressed than we are with the immense amount of mischief inflicted on community by irregular practitioners of medicine. We feel indignant at the base deception they daily practice under our eyes, and we pity their dupes. We all alike agree in deploring the evil, but there is some difference of opinion as to the remedy. The experience of the past satisfies us that legislative wisdom never can restrain individual folly; that all that legislation can do in such matters is to give to all the means of knowing the character of those to whom they may apply, and thus enable them to act with a full knowledge of the circumstances, and leave the rest to each man's own wisdom and prudence.

We are accustomed to apply this principle to other cases of a like nature. Absurd and mischievous religious systems sometimes spring up. We are pained to see men led away by vile superstitions or fall victims to the arts of designing leaders, yet we do not attempt to put down such systems by law, because we do not think it right to impose our religious views upon others, and because we know that any such attempt would only serve to confirm them in error. So too in matters of ordinary business, the law protects man against imposition so far that if one, in making a bargain is deceived by false representations the law would give him redress, but if with a full knowledge of the facts, one enters into a foolish bargain, he must abide

by the consequences. There is no reason why the same principle should not be applied to medical practice.

But even admitting that these restrictive laws are founded on principles of sound policy and justice, there is still one objection which is unanswerable. It is entirely impossible in this country to enforce them. For many years they have been in existence, and yet men have practiced under our eyes openly and avowedly in violation of them, and in no one instance has the penalty been enforced. As to the disability of recovering payment for their services by legal process, it has had quite as little influence, for we think it is altogether probable that botanic doctors and homœopathies, and other quacks, have been quite as well paid as the regular practitioners.

The practical operation of these laws was rather favorable to the class of irregular practitioners. The penalty they imposed was never regarded, the disability of collecting debts afforded a pretext for demanding payment in advance, and gave to their demands the character of debts of honor. Besides this they put it in the power of the quacks to raise a cry of persecution and represent the regular profession as greedy monopolists, and thus excite some feeling in their favor among weak and credulous people. A clamor for the repeal of these laws was kept up for the purpose of advertising the system rather than of obtaining any rights about which they really cared; and since the repeal has been obtained they will have to devise some new plan to wriggle themselves into notice.

It will be remarked that in all our reasoning on this subject of these restrictive laws we have considered them as designed for the good of the public and not of the profession. This is undoubtedly the only ground on which they can be defended. The object of those who enacted them, was to protect the public against the ignorance and rapacity of quacks, and not to protect the profession in a

monopoly of practice to be enjoyed for the benefit of its members. If in the repeal of these laws a wrong was committed, the public and not the profession must be considered the injured party.

It behooves us neither to claim as a right nor to ask as a favor any exclusive privilege, which is opposed to or is not directly conducive to the public good. If these restrictive laws are not called for from consideration of public safety, then there should be no opposition on our part to that repeal. It is certain that no class of community are so little liable to be injured by quacks as physicians who know how to avoid them.

This point has been lost sight of in the discussions on the subject in the legislature and elsewhere, and we are anxious to bring it clearly in view, because it does not comport with the dignity of our profession to appear to be engaged in a selfish contest for privilege with the different bodies of quacks which infest the community.

As the natural guardians of the public interests in such matters it is incumbent on us to admonish the legislature if we think they are acting ignorantly or rashly, but we must be careful to have it understood that in so doing we are not defending our privileges against the rest of the public, but that we are defending the public against their own rashness and folly.

To resume. We consider that the great end of legislation in medical practice should be to provide a body of competent physicians and to give the public the means of recognizing them, leaving to the prudence of individuals to choose discreetly; and that all attempts to coerce people to discretion are wrong in principle and unsuccessful in practice.

We are now prepared to examine the question, whether under the circumstances any action of the Society is called for.

We have expressed our views as regards the restrictive laws. Whatever difference of opinion may exist as regards the general policy of such laws, there is one point on which all must agree. It is utterly impossible to force them so long as they are not in accordance with public sentiment. We would therefore be exceedingly sorry to see the profession again entering into a contest with Thomsonians and other persons of that class, for the sake of restoring a law which we know beforehand cannot be executed, and which serves as a pretext for quacks of all kinds to raise a cry of persecution, and to represent the profession as made up of selfish monopolists, a contest in which defeat would be mortifying and success would bring no real advantage.

We are aware that much feeling has been excited in the profession by the repeal of the laws, but this is owing rather to the manner in which it was effected and the ground on which it was urged than to the act itself. Although it was sustained by some for proper reasons, yet a few senseless demagogues in the legislature, fit organs of the quacks whose cause they espoused, did not fail to seize that occasion to revile the whole body of physicians, and to represent them as engaged in a struggle to maintain a monopoly of practice in their own hands. The profession was thus placed in a false position; it appeared to be fighting for its privileges against the quacks; the interest of the public in the contest was kept out of view, and the result was hailed as a triumph of quackery over the medical profession.

We hope that in future they will be allowed to enjoy their triumph without any interference on our part. We should be sorry to become engaged in a contest with ignoble adversaries for the benefit of a public which will always look upon our mediation with suspicion. Let the knaves and the dupes in future settle their accounts among themselves.



As regards the laws regulating medical education and the organization of the profession we do not know of any modification which would be desirable. The state and county Societies have all the powers necessary to enable the profession to act with unity and efficiency. What is still wanting here depends not on the legislature but on ourselves. We ought to endeavor to infuse more spirit into our county Societies, to have more frequent meetings, and to promote cordiality of feeling among the members. The rules of medical ethics should be scrupulously observed, and any violation of them promptly noticed by the Society.

In the laws of last winter an amendment was offered requiring unlicensed practitioners to express their true character by having the word "unlicensed" on their signs. This amendment, to which no sound objection could be made, since it could only serve to inform the public of the true character of those who offered their services, and which, if one-half was true of what was said in debate respecting the superiority of Indian doctors and Homœopaths and steam doctors over the regular profession, would have conferred a real advantage on the unlicensed practitioners, was rejected. Although we think the amendment a good one, yet we should be sorry to go again before the legislature to ask for its passage; and we think the same end might be attained if every county Society would publish in the newspapers semi-annually or quarterly a list of their members.

Now that all restrictions on practice are removed it will be practicable to raise the standard of admission into the county societies, without exciting any well founded opposition. The Societies are now voluntary associations, into which those who find the requirements too high need not enter. A well matured plan which would increase the amount of requisitions without putting it at a point unat-



tainable at the present time, would no doubt be favorably received by the profession.

We would then say in conclusion, we have laws enough and good laws. Quackery must be suppressed not by legislation, but by enlightening the public as to its dangers. The dignity and respectability of our profession is to be promoted not by asking for legal privileges but by an increase of individual zeal and a more cordial co-operation. It is a great error to suppose that the repeal of the restrictive laws puts the physician on a level with the quack and takes away the barrier which separated them. The barrier which effectually separates the two classes is formed by the higher attainments and honorable deportment of the members of the former; and this is the barrier which it depends on us to make higher and stronger. It is one which quackery will not surmount, and which no legislative enactment can break down.

In accordance with these views, the committee offer the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Society it would not be conducive to the interest or respectability of the medical profession at the present time, to apply to the legislature for any alteration in the charters of the state or county medical societies; or any legislation on any medical subjects whatever.

THOMAS HUN,  
JOEL A. WING,  
MASON F. COGSWELL.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }  
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, }  
*Albany, June 12th, 1844.*

Joel A. Wing, M. D.

Dear Sir. In compliance with your request of this morning, I have examined the act entitled "An act in relation to the practice of Physic and Surgery;" passed May

the 6th, 1844, for the purpose of ascertaining how far previous existing acts in relation to the same subject have been modified or affected thereby.

By the 1st section of this act, § 22 of art. 14, Tit. 7, Part 1st, of the Revised Statutes, which incapacitates persons not licensed according to law from enforcing by law the collection of any debt arising from such practice, is expressly repealed; and all laws then existing prohibiting the collection of debts, by any person, whether licensed or not, for services rendered in the practice of Physic and Surgery are swept from the statute book.

The 2d and 3d sections of the same act repeal all existing laws, imposing any criminal prosecution or penalty for the practice of Physic or Surgery without a license.

The 4th section of the act subjects the unlicensed practitioner to the same civil liabilities for mal-practice as if he were a licensed physician.

The 5th section provides that every person, not being licensed, who shall practice or profess to practice Physic or Surgery, or who shall prescribe medicines or specifics for the sick shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, who, in any court having cognizance thereof, shall be convicted of gross ignorance, mal-practice or immoral conduct.

I have examined with much care the different acts regulating the practice of Physic and Surgery, including the provisions contained in the Revised Statutes up to the present time. And I do not discover that the act under consideration, either expressly or by implication, modifies or repeals them in any other particular other than as above stated. It simply cuts off all restraint to the practice of Physic and Surgery, by any person who shall choose so to do, subjecting such persons to civil liabilities for mal-practice, and to a criminal prosecution for gross ignorance, mal-practice or immoral conduct, at the same time giving power to such person to enforce by law payment for his services, leaving all other statutory provisions, not inconsistent

with these modifications untouched. All the provisions therefore regulating the practice of physic and surgery among licensed physicians, are still in force, although they may perhaps prove quite inefficient from the consideration that the great inducement to become so, may have been taken away by this act.

With friendly consideration your obedient servant,  
GEO. P. BARKER.

*Annual Meeting.*

November 12th, 1844.

The Society met at the City Hall in the city of Albany pursuant to public notice.

Present, Dr. Peter Van Buren, President. Drs. Jonathan Eights, Joel A. Wing, M. F. Cogswell, Thomas Hun, Barent P. Staats, J. H. Case, J. O. Flagler, and E. B. O'Callaghan.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On motion of Dr. Barent P. Staats, the following resolution, offered at the last meeting of the Society by Dr. O'Callaghan and then laid on the table, was taken into consideration.

*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Society, it would promote the interests of the medical profession generally to separate the department of teaching from that of granting licenses for practicing physic and surgery, and that the delegate from this Society to the State Medical Society be furnished with a copy of the above resolution to communicate the same to the state society and to call for the opinion and action of that body thereon.

After some discussion thereon the resolution was passed.

Dr. John Campbell, having exhibited satisfactory credentials, was admitted a member of this Society.

The Treasurer made a verbal report on the state of the treasury.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer settle an account due to W. C. Little bearing date 1833, '4, '5, amounting to—

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer pay \$2.50 to the Albany *Argus*, and the like amount to the *Evening Journal* for publishing the report of a late committee of this Society.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer pay to Dr. Jonathan Eights the balance due to him for expenses incurred in having printed the by-laws of this Society amounting to six dollars and thirty-five cents.

It having been represented to the Society by the Treasurer that great difficulty is encountered in collecting the annual dues of the members,

On motion of Dr. Barent P. Staats,

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer of this Society be requested to call on the members thereof and request them to pay one dollar per year for the year 1843, '4, for the purpose of defraying the honest debts of the Society.

The Society then proceeded to elect by ballot officers for the ensuing year, and the following persons having received a majority of all the votes cast, were declared to be elected.

Dr. Thomas Hun, *President*.

Dr. Henry Van OLinda, *Vice-President*.

Dr. John Campbell, *Secretary*.

Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan, *Treasurer*.

Dr. J. O. Flagler, *Librarian*.

Drs. Jonathan Eights, P. Van OLinda, Joel A. Wing, B. F. Fredenburgh, and Jas. P. Boyd, *Censors*.

Dr. Peter Van Buren was chosen as delegate from this Society to the State Medical Society.

The Society then adjourned.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.

The following is a list of members published February 4th, 1845, in accordance with a resolution of the Society,



embracing the names of such only as had paid the annual tax for preceding year, viz. .

Drs. Peter Wendell, Jonathan Eights, T. Romeyn Beck, Platt Williams, Joel A. Wing, Peter Van OLinda, Barent P. Staats, Alden March, Henry Van OLinda, James McNaughton, Peter McNaughton, James P. Boyd, Peter P. Staats, Nicholas Markey, B. F. Fredenburgh, Thomas Hun, James H. Armsby, Herman Wendell, Wm. F. Carter, P. Van Buren, P. Gannon, Mason F. Cogswell, E. B. O'Callaghan, J. O. Flagler, David Martin, Wm. J. Young, John Campbell, Richard H. Thompson, Jonathan H. Case, and John Van Buren.

*Semi-Annual Meeting.*

June 10th, 1845.

Pursuant to public notice, and in accordance with the by-laws of the Society the semi-annual meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held on Tuesday, the 10th day of June, 1845, at 11 o'clock, A. M., at the Mayor's room, City Hall.

Present, Dr. Thomas Hun, President, Drs. Peter P. Staats, James H. Armsby, Peter Van Buren, Mason F. Cogswell, E. B. O'Callaghan, J. O. Flagler, John Van Buren, and John Campbell.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Librarian presented the following report.

*Catalogue of Books of the Medical Society of the County of Albany in the hands of John O. Flagler, Librarian, June 10th, 1845.*

3 vols. American Journal of the Medical Sciences, Nos. 1, 2, 3. Bound.

13 " Philadelphia Journal, Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. Bound.

7 vols. New England Journal, do. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16. Bound.

6 " New York Medical and Physical Journal, do. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Bound.

14 vols. Eclectic Repertory, do. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. Bound.

- 3 vols. Medical Repository, do. 6, 7, 8. Bound.
- 1 " Thomson on Inflammation, do. 1. Bound.
- 1 " Scudamore on Gout. Bound.
- 2 " Caldwell's Cullen. Bound.
- 1 " Barton's Cullen. Bound.
- 1 " Accum on Culinary Poisons. Bound.
- 1 " Reid on Nervous Affections. Bound.
- 1 " Dewees on Parturition. Bound.
- 5 " Medical Recorder, Nos. 29, 30, 32, 45, 46. Unbound.
- 4 " New York Medical and Physical Journal, Nos. 3, 29, 30. 32. Unbound.
- Transactions Medical Society of State of New York, Nos. 1, 2, 3. Unbound.
- Hogben's Obstetric Studies, Nos. 1. Unbound.
- Two large Plates or Tables on Parturition.
- American Journal of the Medical Sciences, Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32. Unbound.

One pine case, containing the library.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN O. FLAGLER, *Librarian.*

On motion, the report was accepted.

Ordered, That the above report be entered on the minutes by the Secretary, and kept on file in the archives of the Society.

Dr. Peter Van Buren, delegate to the State Medical Society made report of such portions of the proceedings of said Society as may require the action or consideration of the County Societies and presented the following resolution of that body.

*Resolved*, That this Society recommend to the several County Societies, that they furnish each member of their several Societies with a copy of the Transactions of the State Medical Society.

He also presented for the consideration of this Society the following resolution offered to that body by Dr. Hasbrouck; and laid upon the table.

*Resolved*, That the following proposed amendments to the laws regulating the practice of physic and surgery, be sent to the several County Medical Societies and incorporated Medical Colleges for their consideration; and with a request for them to communicate to this Society, before its next annual meeting, their opinion thereon, with a view to enable the State Medical Society to make an application to the legislature at its next or some subsequent session, for such alteration in the laws regulating the practice of physic and surgery, as will advance the character and usefulness of the Medical Profession, and conduce to the interests of the public.

“1. That the first 7 sections of the General Regulations ought to be repealed.

“2. That the office of censor in the County Medical Societies should be abolished, and that the power of granting licenses to practice shall be exclusively confined to boards of censors, in each senate district, or by a state board of censors, to be chosen by the State Medical Society.

“3. That no person engaged in teaching students, and no professor in any Medical College shall be eligible to the office of censor by the State Medical Society.

“4. That the degree of doctor of medicine, conferred by any Society or College in or out of this state, or by the Regents of the University of the state, shall not be considered a license to practice physic and surgery.”

The report of Dr. Van Buren as delegate was accepted,

The Treasurer, at the request of several members, reported verbally on the condition of the finances of the Society.

The Secretary presented the names of Richard H. Thompson, and John V. P. Quackenbush as applicants for admission to the Society, stating that they had exhibited to the President satisfactory credentials and had paid into the treasury the initiatory fee.

Whereupon these gentlemen were admitted as members by an unanimous vote of the meeting.

The next order of proceeding being the delivery of the semi-annual address by the Vice-President, and it appearing that the Vice-President, Dr. Henry Van O'Linda, was prevented by ill health from being present at this meeting,

On motion of Dr. John O. Flagler,

*Resolved*, That the second Tuesday of September next be set apart for the purpose of hearing the semi-annual address of the Vice-President of this Society, and that the Secretary be required to notify the Vice-President that said day is appointed for that purpose.

*Ordered*, That the Secretary be directed, in the semi-annual publication of the names of the members of this Society, instead of the preamble which has heretofore been used to precede said list, to insert the following:

List of members of the Albany County Medical Society who have paid their dues to the Society.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer pay the sum of five dollars to W. C. Little on an account due from this Society bearing date 1833, 1834, and 1835, taking his receipt in full for said account.

*Resolved*, That hereafter the Society will supply each member who pays his annual dues with a copy of the Transactions of the State Medical Society.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the resolutions introduced by Dr. Hasbrouck at the last meeting of the State Medical Society, and that said committee be directed to report upon the same at the next annual meeting of this Society.

The President appointed the following gentlemen to serve as said committee, viz.:

Drs. Joel A. Wing, Alden March, and E. B. O'Callaghan.

The Society then adjourned.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.



*Adjourned Semi-Annual Meeting.*

September 9th, 1845.

Pursuant to adjournment, and agreeable to public notice given in the daily papers, the Society met at the grand jury room, City Hall, at 4 o'clock, P. M., September 9th, 1845.

Present, Dr. Thomas Hun, President, Drs. Alden March, Peter Wendell, Peter McNaughton, Peter Van OLinda, Peter Van Buren, James P. Boyd, Mason F. Cogswell, Jonathan Eights, John O. Flagler, Nicholas Markey, Richard H. Thompson, John Campbell, Christopher C. Griffin, and Uriah G. Bigelow.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The President stated that the object of the present meeting was to hear the semi-annual address of the Vice President, Dr. Henry Van OLinda, but that that gentleman had been obliged to leave town for the benefit of his health, and that he had not yet returned.

On motion of Dr. Peter Van Buren,

*Resolved*, That the Vice-President be excused on account of ill health and consequent absence from the city, for not delivering the address due from him on this occasion.

Dr. Peter Van Buren, delegate to State Medical Society, to whom was referred the subject of supplying the members of this Society with copies of the Transactions of the State Medical Society, reported that a sufficient number had not been published for distribution this year, but that an increased number would be printed hereafter.

The President announced that since the last meeting of the Society he had, by virtue of the power vested in him, granted a certificate of membership to Dr. Christopher C. Griffin on the 20th day of August. Also to Uriah G. Bigelow, M. D., on the 21st day of August; those gentlemen having exhibited satisfactory credentials and paid the initiation fee into the treasury of the Society.

The President also announced that he had granted a diploma to Thomas Brodhead, bearing date August 4th, 1845; he having passed a satisfactory examination before the Censors of this Society, and been recommended by them as properly qualified for the practice of physic and surgery.

Dr. Cogswell offered the following resolution which was adopted.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be directed to prepare and have printed, circular letters to be sent to all such regularly licensed physicians in this county as have never joined this Society, or having once belonged to it, have not of late associated with it; inviting the former to make application for admission forthwith; and requesting such as are members to transmit to the Secretary their names, places of residence, and the date of their admission together with the annual tax due for the current year; and that said letters circular be signed by the President of the Society.

A communication was received from Dr. Joel A. Wing, offering for the consideration and action of the Society the following preamble and resolution, viz.

The Albany County Medical Society have learned with regret that Platt Williams, M. D., now one of the senior practitioners in this city, and for thirty years a member of the Society, is about to leave the city for a residence in a distant part of this state, and deeming that some mark of their respect is due to him on parting. Therefore

*Resolved*, That the departure of Dr. Williams from amongst us is sincerely regretted by his professional friends; and while they recognize with pleasure, his valuable acquirements in the science of medicine, his skill in the treatment of disease, his uniform urbanity and probity in his professional intercourse, and the integrity with which he has filled the offices bestowed upon him at various times, by the County and State Medical Societies, the Society tender to him their best wishes and sincere prayers for

many years of continued comfort and happiness in the residence to which he is about to remove.

Dr. P. Wendell moved that the préamble and resolution be adopted, which was seconded by Dr. P. McNaughton.

They were accordingly adopted by an unanimous vote of the meeting.

On motion of Dr. John O. Flagler,

*Resolved*, That the foregoing preamble and resolution be published in the public papers, and that a copy be transmitted to Dr. Williams.

Dr. R. H. Thompson offered the following :

Whereas, it appears by the report of the Librarian delivered at the late meeting of the Society, that several valuable works are missing which are known to have been in the library at no very distant period. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed by the President to take into consideration the state of the library ; to take measures to recover the missing volumes, and that they be empowered to use legal means if necessary for that purpose ; that they be directed to make such suggestions in regard to the library as they shall think proper, and that they make report of their proceedings at the annual meeting of the Society in November.

The resolution was carried, and the chair appointed the following as said committee, viz. :

The Librarian, Dr. Thompson, the Secretary.

The Society then adjourned.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.

*Annual Meeting.*

November 11th, 1845.

Pursuant to the by-laws of the Society, and agreeable to public notice given in the daily papers, the Society met at the common council chamber, City Hall, at 11 o'clock, A. M., on the 11th day of November, 1845.

Present, Dr. Thomas Hun, President, Drs. J. McNaughton, Leonard G. Warren, Barent P. Staats, Peter McNaughton, Joel A. Wing, Peter Van O'Linda, E. B. O'Callaghan, Peter Van Buren, Jonathan H. Case, Peter P. Staats, James M. Brown, Alden March, Samuel Dickson, Richard H. Thompson, David R. Burrus, Christopher C. Griffin, and John Campbell.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan presented his annual report as treasurer of the Society, which is as follows:

*Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan, Treasurer, in account with the Albany County Medical Society.*

| DR.                                |         |                |  | CR.            |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------------|--|----------------|
| 1843 and 1844.                     |         |                | 1844 and 1845.                             |                |
| To cash received for members' tax, | \$55.00 |                | By amt. paid for advertising and printing, | \$36.35        |
| 1845,                              |         |                | By amount paid W. C. Little in full,       | 10.00          |
| To cash received for fees paid,    | 15.00   |                | By amt. paid Dr. Eights,                   | 6.35           |
| To " " for diplomas,               | 10.00   |                | " " State Medical Society,                 | 10.00          |
|                                    |         |                | " " for crape and postage,                 | 2.37½          |
|                                    |         |                | " " for collecting tax,                    | 1.00           |
|                                    |         |                | " " Balance in Treasurer's hands,          | 13.92½         |
|                                    |         | <u>\$80.00</u> |  | <u>\$80.00</u> |

Dr. Wing, from the committee appointed to take into consideration certain resolutions offered by Dr. Hasbrouck at the late meeting of the State Medical Society, presented a report, stating at the same time that he had drawn it up without consultation with his colleagues.

On motion the report was accepted.

Dr. Thompson, from the committee appointed to take into consideration the state of the library and for certain other purposes, presented the report of said committee.

On motion the report was accepted.

Dr. Barent P. Staats offered the following resolution.

*Resolved*, That the books belonging to the Albany County Medical Society be presented to the Albany Medical College for the use of its students.

The resolution was laid on the table.



The names of Isaiah Breakey, Josias Graham, and Alfred Greene, were presented as applicants for admission to the Society.

On motion their credentials were referred to the Comitia Minora with full power.

The President announced that he had, since the last meeting of the Society, admitted as a member of the Society Dr. Edward Perry, a graduate of the medical department of the University of New York.

The President then delivered the annual address of the Society.

Dr. B. P. Staats offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society be rendered to the President for his able and ingenuous address, and that he be requested to give a copy of the same to the delegate to the State Medical Society for their action.

The Secretary presented a communication from Dr. Platt Williams.

A communication was also received from Dr. Jaeger, which was on motion laid upon the table.

Dr. Thompson offered the following :

Whereas, the present laws for the collection of debts, and the regulation of the practice of physic and surgery in this state, are such as to render the former in many cases difficult, if not impossible, and to place the latter legally on a par with quackery, it becomes the imperative duty of the medical profession, to adopt such regulations and institute such arrangements as will best overcome the difficulties of the one, and protect itself from the disgraceful encroachments of the other; and whereas, some unprincipled persons of this vicinity, are in the habit of soliciting and receiving the services of a physician for months, and on the presentation of the bill therefor, refusing to cancel the same; and thereafter when they need the aid

of a physician, they call on some other person whom they treat in like manner, and then on another, and another, and another, all of whom they refuse to pay, so that however numerous the family may be that they respectfully have reared, or however much sickness they may have been afflicted with, they thus secure medical assistance for a series of years without the least recompense, and thus grossly impose on the humanity of our profession, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the President appoint a committee of three, whose duty it shall be to investigate the extent and character of the imposition practiced upon the profession by willful non paying patrons, to devise some plan or arrangement, if possible, to remedy this evil, and report the same to this Society at the earliest opportunity.

The resolution was adopted, and the chair appointed the following gentlemen to act as said committee. Drs. R. H. Thompson, B. P. Staats, and P. McNaughton.

Dr. Thompson offered the following resolution which was adopted.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to be called The Committee on Medical Ethics, whose duty it shall be to receive the complaint of any members of this Society in relation to the infraction of any of its articles ; and if, upon proper evidence adduced, the committee shall deem the complaint worthy the action of the Society, to report the same to the next meeting thereof, with an opinion as to the course that ought to be pursued in relation to the individual charged with such infraction.

The chair appointed the following as said committee. Drs. Peter Van Buren, Peter P. Staats and E. B. O'Callaghan.

Dr. Peter Van Buren offered the following resolution, which was carried.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary procure at the expense of this Society, and furnish to each member thereof a copy of

the Medical Ethics, as adopted by the State Medical Society.

On motion of Dr. J. H. Case,

*Resolved*, That application be respectfully made on the part of this Society to the Honorable the Secretary of State for a copy of the work published by the state on the Natural History of this State, and for a copy of the Geological Map.

On motion of Dr. Edmund B. O'Callaghan,

*Ordered*, That a list of the missing books belonging to this Society be published in the daily papers by the Librarian, with a request that such persons as may have any such volumes in their possession would be pleased to return them to such officer without delay.

The Society then proceeded to ballot for officers, and the following gentlemen having respectively received a majority of all the votes cast were declared to be duly elected.

Dr. Thomas Hun, *President*.

Dr. Mason F. Cogswell, *Vice-President*.

Dr. John Campbell, *Secretary*.

Dr. Edmund B. O'Callaghan, *Treasurer*.

Dr. Richard H. Thompson, *Librarian*.

Drs. Peter McNaughton, James P. Boyd, Leonard G. Warren, Peter Van Buren, and Samuel Dickson, *Censors*.

The Society then adjourned.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.

*Special Meeting.*

February 17th, 1846.

The Society met pursuant to notice given in the public papers at the grand jury room, City Hall, at 4 o'clock, P. M. Present, Dr. Thomas Hun, President. Drs. Peter P. Staats, J. V. P. Quackenbush, E. B. O'Callaghan, John Van Buren, P. Van Buren, P. Van O'Linda, Cogswell, R. H. Thompson, and J. Campbell.

The meeting having been called to order by the chair, the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer, Dr. O'Callaghan, reported as follows:

The Treasurer of the Society begs to report,

That though the majority of the members have readily paid the tax for the last year, he has in other instances experienced some degree of trouble. In a few cases he has been obliged to apply to the Secretary for assistance, by whose personal applications only he has in such cases succeeded in collecting the tax.

The Treasurer regrets to be obliged to add that most of this difficulty has been encountered from some of the oldest members, whose connection with this Society has been to themselves a source at once of honor and of profit.

The annual tax which we are called on to pay is so insignificant that it is really difficult to understand why some object to pay it. It barely suffices to keep the Society out of debt; and unless it be paid at the expiration of the year, when demanded, the Society, it is to be feared, will become again embarrassed and fall into discredit. The balance at present to the credit of the Society is between \$17 and \$18. It is deposited in bank, and can be obtained whenever required. Six or seven members still owe their tax, as can be seen from the annexed vouchers. The Treasurer would respectfully suggest that a committee might be appointed to examine his accounts for the two years that he has been in office, as well as the book that the late Treasurer handed over to him last year. Such a committee ought to have been raised at the last annual meeting, but by some oversight was forgotten.

In closing this report the Treasurer would only add that it would facilitate his labors considerably, if he were instructed what course to pursue in cases where several years tax happen to be due. At present, he is under the necessity of adding, year after year, to the old bill, as he cannot



take it upon himself to give discharges for sums not paid. The consequence is, such bills are never settled, and the Treasurer is obliged to compound, where the parties are willing, for one dollar, the tax for the current year.

All which is submitted.

E. B. O'CALLAGHAN, *Treasurer*.

In accordance with the request of the Treasurer, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to examine the Treasurer's accounts and the books of the late Treasurer, viz.: Drs. Peter Van OLinda, J. V. P. Quackenbush, and J. Campbell.

Dr. P. Van Buren, from the committee on Medical Ethics, presented to the meeting a report in writing.

On motion the report was accepted.

Dr. P. Van Buren from the same committee offered the following resolution, which was adopted.

Whereas, the frequent occurrences of breaches of good faith and medical courtesy by some of the members of this Society render it necessary to protect this body from such imputation; it is therefore

*Resolved*, That every member shall be held bound, whenever it comes under his observation, that the rules laid down in the Medical Ethics are violated, to report the case to the Committee on Medical Ethics, who shall investigate the same, and if, in their judgment there be sufficient cause, lay the same before the Society.

Dr. Peter P. Staats by request was excused from serving on the committee on Medical Ethics.

On motion of Dr. P. Van Buren, the existing committee on Medical Ethics was dissolved.

The chair then appointed the following gentlemen as such committee, viz.: Drs. P. Van Buren, John Van Buren, and B. P. Staats.

On motion of Dr. O'Callaghan.

*Ordered*, That each member of said committee be served

with a notification of his appointment, together with a copy of the above resolution.

The chair then stated that the present meeting had been specially called, for the purpose of laying before the Society, and obtaining their sentiments upon a plan which had been proposed by several of its members, of holding more frequent meetings of the Society, for the purpose of mutual improvement in the medical sciences, and of ensuring a more intimate acquaintance and a more friendly intercourse between the members of the regular profession in this city and county.

On motion of Dr. Cogswell,

*Resolved*, That the meeting adjourn, to meet again on next Tuesday, at 4 o'clock, P. M., and that the President be instructed in the meanwhile to draw up a plan in furtherance of the above object to be laid before the Society at said meeting.

The Society accordingly adjourned.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.

### *Special Meeting.*

February 24th, 1846.

The Society met pursuant to personal notice served on each member, at the grand jury room, City Hall.

Present, Drs. P. Van O Linda, Martin, March, Armsby, Quackenbush, P. Van Buren, O'Callaghan, Burris, Thompson, Griffin, and Campbell.

The President being absent, Dr. P. Van Buren was called to the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The committee, appointed to examine the accounts of the present and late Treasurers, report as follows :

The committee to examine the Treasurers' accounts submitted by the Treasurer, Dr. O'Callaghan, respectfully report, that they have attended to that duty, and compared

the same with the vouchers and find it correct, with the exception of an error of two dollars, which might have occurred in the footing up, or might have been paid since the adding up, but which was corrected.

They have also examined the books of the late Treasurer, and his report, and vouchers which from circumstances had not before been offered, but was submitted to this committee and find the same correct.

P. Van OLinda, J. V. P. Quackenbush, and John Campbell, *Committee*.

Albany, February 24th, 1846.

The report was accepted.

The chair stated that the object of the present meeting was to receive from the President a plan, which he had been instructed to lay before the Society for its consideration and action ; that that officer being unavoidably detained, had placed the paper which he had drawn up in the hands of the Secretary.

Said communication was read and is as follows :

The County Medical Societies were instituted for the purpose of organizing the medical profession and of enabling the members to co-operate in promoting their common interests. For many years this Society has fallen into neglect and has consequently failed to answer the end for which it was created. The members have remained isolated and have scarcely known each other ; and there has grown up a mutual distrust and lack of good feeling, which render the discharge of our professional duties less pleasant to ourselves, and less profitable to the public.

It has been thought by some of us, that a plan might be devised for promoting a better feeling among the members of our Society and for our mutual professional improvement ; and by a resolution at the last meeting the duty was imposed on the President of embodying your views on this point, and submitting them to the action of the Society.

In accordance with this resolution the following suggestions are submitted for the consideration of the Society. As it is believed that the success of the measure will depend mainly on the spirit in which they are carried out, these propositions are few and simple.

1. A meeting of the Society shall be held on the 2d and 4th Tuesday of every month at 4, P. M.

2. At the meetings held on the 2d Tuesday of the month of January, April, July, and October, six members shall be designated to read papers on medical topics before the Society ; and such members shall perform their duties in alphabetical order unless they shall make some other arrangement among themselves.

3. At the meetings of the Society the papers shall be read by members thus appointed, and the subject shall remain open for discussion and conversation among the members present. Other members shall be allowed to introduce papers or medical topics to the notice of the Society, when the discussion shall be closed.

4. These regulations shall apply only to those members who shall signify their willingness to submit to them by handing their names to the Secretary and shall not interfere with the regular annual and semi-annual meetings prescribed by our by-laws for the members of the Society.

5. Every member who shall be absent at a meeting of the Society when the roll is called by the Secretary, shall forfeit     cents, which shall be kept separate from the other funds of the Society and be appropriated as may hereafter be directed.

6. The Society will petition the common council to have a room in the City Hall assigned for its use.

The communication was, on motion, laid on the table for the consideration of members, to be taken up at the next meeting of the Society.

On motion,



*Resolved*, That the past dues to this Society from Dr. Charles D. Townsend be remitted to him, and that the Treasurer be absolved from the duty of calling upon him in future for his annual tax.

*Resolved*, That, owing to a misunderstanding, Dr. Jonathan Eights be excused from the payment of the tax for the year 1845.

*Resolved*, That Dr. James M. Brown be released from the payment of the tax for the year 1845.

The following resolution, offered by Dr. Thompson, was adopted.

Whereas, it appears by the records of this Society that upon the erection of the City Hall, a room therein was granted by the proper authorities for the use of this Society ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That a respectful representation of the fact be made to his honor the Mayor of this City with a request that said room be restored to the Society ; or if said room be now devoted to other purposes, that some other room in said building be granted to the Society for its permanent use and occupation.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to carry this resolution into effect.

The chair appointed the following gentlemen to serve on said committee, viz.:

Drs. R. H. Thompson, M. F. Cogswell, and P. Van O Linda.

The Society then adjourned.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.

### *Semi-Annual Meeting.*

June 9th, 1846.

The Society assembled at 11 o'clock, A. M., in the common council chamber, City Hall.

Present, Dr. Thomas Hun, President, Drs. P. Van Bu-

ren, Thompson, Cogswell, Quackenbush, Bigelow, Burris, Griffin, Case, Dickson, Campbell, Carter, Brown, March, and Wing.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Thompson, from the committee appointed to procure a room for the use of the Society, reported that a room had been appropriated at the erection of the building to the Society, but having never been occupied had been devoted to other purposes.

The chair stated that two applications had been made for admission to the Society, and that owing to the difficulty of procuring a meeting of the Comitia Minora he was compelled to refer it again to the Society at this meeting. Thereupon,

*Resolved*, That Isaiah Breakey be admitted as a member of this Society upon payment of the initiation fee.

Dr. Cogswell, Vice-President, then read the semi-annual address.

The following resolution was offered by Dr. Thompson and unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society are due, and are hereby given to Dr. Cogswell, for the able and useful address to which we have just listened.

On motion of Dr. Thompson, the plan submitted by the President at the last meeting, was called up for consideration.

After being amended in several particulars, the plan was adopted and now reads as follows:

1. A meeting of the Society shall be held on the 2d Tuesday of every month at 3 P. M.

2. At the meetings held on the 2d Tuesdays of January, April, July, and October, three members shall be appointed, one of whom shall at each meeting read a paper on some medical topic before the Society, and such members shall perform their duties in alphabetical order unless they shall make some other arrangement among themselves.

3. At the meetings of the Society the papers shall be read by members thus appointed, and the subject shall remain open for discussion among the members present. When the discussion shall be closed, the other members of the Society shall be called on in alphabetical order to report cases or read papers before the Society.

4. These regulations shall apply only to those members who shall signify their willingness to submit to them by handing their names to the Secretary, and shall not interfere with the regular annual and semi-annual meetings prescribed by our by-laws for the members of the Society.

5. Every member who shall be absent at a meeting of the Society when the roll is called by the Secretary shall forfeit fifty cents, which shall be kept separate from the other funds of the Society, and be appropriated as may hereafter be directed.

6. The Society will petition the common council to have a room in the City Hall assigned for its use.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the first meeting in accordance with the above arrangement be held on the second Tuesday in July next.

On motion of Dr. P. Van Buren,

*Resolved*, That the Secretary obtain as many subscribers as he can, to the preamble and resolution adopted, this day, and give notice of the first regular meeting.

The Society then adjourned.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.

*Special Meeting.*

July 14th, 1846.

The Society met at 3 o'clock, P. M., at the common council chamber. Present, Drs. Cogswell, O'Callaghan, Quackenbush, Burrus, and Campbell.

The President not being present, the Vice-President, Dr. Cogswell, took the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.  
The meeting then adjourned.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.

*Special Meeting.*

Oct. 2d, 1846.

The Society met at 3½ o'clock, P. M., at the rooms of Dr. Cogswell. Present, Drs. Cogswell, P. McNaughton, B. P. Staats, P. P. Staats, Boyd, J. Van Buren, Thompson, Wing, J. McNaughton, Flagler, P. Van Buren, Hun, Hinkley, Brown, Breakey, Case, Quackenbush, Bigelow, and Campbell.

Dr. Cogswell, Vice-President, took the chair.

Dr. B. P. Staats stated that the meeting had been called in consequence of the death of our late associate, Dr. Henry Van OLinda.

Dr. P. McNaughton offered the following resolutions, which were adopted.

*Resolved*, That the members of the Albany County Medical Society have heard with extreme regret, the death of their fellow member, Dr. Henry Van OLinda.

*Resolved*, That the Society offer their sincere condolence to the family of the deceased on this afflicting dispensation of Providence.

*Resolved*, That the Society will attend the funeral of the deceased in a body, and that they wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

The Society then adjourned.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.

*Annual Meeting.*

November 10th, 1846.

The Society met at the common council chamber, City Hall, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Present, Dr. M. F. Cogswell, Vice-President. Drs. O'-Callaghan, Wing, Van OLinda, P. Van Buren, Trotter,



Quackenbush, Case, Breakey, Thompson, Griffin and Campbell.

The minutes of the two preceding meetings were read and approved.

The Treasurer, Dr. O'Callaghan, presented his annual report, which is as follows: -

*E. B. O'Callaghan, Treasurer in account with Albany County Medical Society.*

| DR.                             |  | CR.                                 |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1845.                           |  | 1845.                               |
| Nov. 11. To balance remain-     |  | Nov. 11. By Alb. Argus' bill        |
| ing on hand, ..... \$13.92½     |  | paid, ..... \$6.10                  |
| 1846.                           |  | " 12. By Evening Jour-              |
| Nov. 9. To tax received last    |  | nal's, paid, ..... 4.97             |
| year, ..... 33.00               |  | Dec. 23. By Atlas' bill paid, 2.50  |
| " To balance received           |  | 1846. By tax paid collector, 1.00   |
| from the previous               |  | Feb. 2. By State tax paid, ... 5.00 |
| Treasurer, ..... 3.00           |  | " 12. By Munsell's bill paid, 4.50  |
| " To error in last acct., 2.00  |  | " 17 By French and Cassi-           |
| " To 1 initiation fee, .. 3.00  |  | dy's bill paid, ..... 1.13          |
|                                 |  | " 27. Stone and Henley's            |
|                                 |  | bill paid, ..... 1.75               |
|                                 |  | May 6. By Munsell's bill            |
|                                 |  | paid, ..... 6.60                    |
|                                 |  | Nov. 9. By Evening Jour-            |
|                                 |  | nal's bill paid, .... 7.13          |
|                                 |  | " " By French and Cas-              |
|                                 |  | sidy's bill paid, .. 3.00           |
|                                 |  | " " By E. and S. Cros-              |
|                                 |  | well's bill paid, ... 4.50          |
|                                 |  | Oct. 5 By Stone's bill paid, 1.25   |
|                                 |  | Nov. 9. By Secretary's acct.        |
|                                 |  | for disbursements, 1.00             |
|                                 |  | Nov. 10. By balance in Treas-       |
|                                 |  | urer's hands, ..... 4.40½           |
| Errors excepted, ..... \$54.92½ |  | <u>\$54.92½</u>                     |

The Librarian, Dr. Thompson, reported verbally as to the state of the library.

On motion of the Treasurer, his report was referred to a committee of three.

The chair appointed the following as such committee viz.: Drs. P. Van Buren, R. H. Thompson and J. V. P. Quackenbush.

The Secretary presented a communication received from

the State Medical Society in relation to certain volumes of the Transactions of said Society. Thereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be directed to purchase a set of the volumes mentioned in said communication.

Dr. Quackenbush presented the name of Dr. Samuel H. Freeman as a candidate for admission to the Society. Whereupon it was

*Resolved*, That Dr. Samuel H. Freeman be admitted as a member of this Society.

The chair stated that Dr. Isaiah Breakey had paid his initiation fee and therefore enrolled as one of the members of this Society.

The chair stated that he had been requested by the President to inform the Society that owing to the pressure of business, he had been prevented from preparing his annual address, and asked to be excused for such omission.

On motion of Dr. Thompson,

*Resolved*, That the President be excused for neglecting to deliver his annual address.

Dr. Peter Van Buren, delegate to the State Medical Society, laid before the Society, certain resolutions on the subject of Medical Education (contained on pages 189, 190 of the appendix to the last number of the "Transaction" of said Society).

On motion, it was

*Resolved*, That said resolutions be referred to a committee of three, whose duty it shall be to report thereon to this Society at its next meeting.

The chair appointed the following as such committee, viz.:

Drs. Joel A. Wing, P. Van Buren, and Thomas Hun.

Dr. Thompson offered the following resolution, which was adopted.

*Resolved*, That a committee of five persons be appointed to consider the propriety of establishing a medical dispen-

sary in this city, and report thereon at the next meeting of this Society.

The following gentlemen were selected as said committee, viz.:

Drs. Joel A. Wing, Alden March, Jas. P. Boyd, Rich. H. Thompson, and John Campbell.

On motion of Dr. Van OLinda, it was

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed with instructions to inquire into the expediency of having the prescriptions of regular physicians hereafter prepared by apothecaries regularly instructed in pharmacy.

The following committee was appointed for said purpose, viz.:

Drs. Peter Van OLinda, Joel A. Wing, and Richard H. Thompson.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the selection of the following, viz.:

Dr. Mason F. Cogswell, *President*.

Dr. Richard H. Thompson, *Vice-President*.

Dr. John Campbell, *Secretary*.

Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan, *Treasurer*.

Dr. John Trotter, *Librarian*.

Drs. Peter McNaughton, Barent P. Staats, John H. Trotter, David R. Burrus, of West Troy, and William F. Carter of Cohoes, *Censors*.

On motion the Society then adjourned until the 1st Tuesday in January, 1847.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.

### *Special Meeting.*

January 5th, 1847.

The Society met at the grand jury room, City Hall.

Present, Dr. R. H. Thompson, Vice-President. Drs.

Joel A. Wing, Peter Van OLinda, Thomas Hun, Peter Van Buren, Jon. H. Case, Alden March, John V. P. Quackenbush, John H. Trotter, C. C. Griffin, S. H. Freeman, and J. Campbell.

The Vice-President took the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The committee appointed to examine the accounts of the treasurer for the past year reported that they had found the same correct.

On motion the report was adopted.

Dr. Wing, from the committee appointed at the annual meeting to take into consideration certain resolutions of the State Medical Society on the subject of Medical Education, presented a report with certain accompanying resolutions.

Dr. Van Buren presented a report from the minority of the same committee together with certain resolutions.

On motion, both reports were accepted.

Dr. Van OLinda, from the committee appointed at the late meeting of the Society to take into consideration the subject of the Prescriptions of Physicians, reported.

The report was adopted.

The committee, appointed at the last meeting of the Society, to whom was referred the subject of the establishment of a medical dispensary in this city, reported favorably to the said project and concluded with offering the resolution following:

*Resolved*, That a committee of three persons be appointed, whose duty it shall be to embrace in a memorial to the common council of this city the substance of the above report and to present the same to the consideration of this Society at its next special or regular meeting.

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and the chair appointed the following gentlemen as said committee, viz.: Drs. Thomas Hun, Joel A. Wing, and Alden March.



The resolutions, proposed by the majority of the committee upon medical education, were then taken up and after some discussion thereon were adopted, and are as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That this Society cordially approve of resolution first of State Medical Society, and sincerely hope that circumstances of a general character may enable the profession to elevate the standard of medical education to the spirit and letter of the above resolution.

2. That this Society think it expedient to suspend opinion or express a negative one on this resolution till after the result of the action of the National Convention shall be known (in relation to this subject), and until more ample and convincing arguments shall be offered in favor of the proposed change.

3. Although the Society approve of the introduction of the study of physiology, chemistry, and botany (under certain restrictions) into our common schools, yet as we possess no power or influence on the subject, we prefer awaiting the result of the action of the National Medical Convention on the subject of preliminary education to the present expression of any definite opinion on the subject.

The Society then adjourned.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.

*Special Meeting.*

May 3d, 1847.

The Society met at the common council chamber, City Hall, at 1 o'clock, P. M. Present, Drs. Wm. Bay, Joel A. Wing, Jon. H. Case, P. Van Buren, Thompson, Bigelow, Griffin, and Campbell.

Dr. Thompson, Vice-President, took the chair.

The chair stated the object of the meeting to be the appointment of delegates to the national medical convention to be held at Philadelphia on the 5th day of May, 1847.

Dr. P. Van Buren moved that three delegates be chosen to represent the Society in said convention.

The motion was adopted.

Thereupon, Drs. Jas. P. Boyd, Mason F. Cogswell, and Barent P. Staats were unanimously chosen as such delegates.

The meeting then adjourned.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.

*Semi-Annual Meeting.*

June 8th, 1847.

The Society met at the common council chamber at 11 o'clock, A. M. Present, Dr. Mason F. Cogswell, President, Drs. L. G. Warren, Peter Van Buren, Samuel Dickson, Rich'd H. Thompson, Nicholas Markey, Thomas Hun, C. C. Griffin, Uriah G. Bigelow, David R. Burrus, and John Campbell.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The President proposed the name of Benjamin A. Sheldon as a member of the Society, he having exhibited satisfactory credentials.

Dr. Sheldon was thereupon admitted as a member of the Society.

The Vice-President, Dr. Thompson, delivered the semi-annual address.

Dr. Dickson offered the following resolution, which was adopted.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society be, and are hereby tendered to Dr. Thompson for his able and interesting address.

The chair stated that the resignation of Dr. Trotter as Librarian of the Society had been received.

The meeting then proceeded to an election by ballot to fill the vacancy. Dr. U. G. Bigelow having received all the votes cast, was declared to be elected Librarian.

Dr. Hun gave notice that he will, at the next annual meeting of the Society, propose an alteration of the by-laws in relation to the hour of holding meetings.

On motion of Dr. Warren the meeting then adjourned.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.

*Annual Meeting.*

November 9th, 1847.

The Society met at the common council chamber, City Hall, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Present, Dr. Mason F. Cogswell, President, Drs. Thomas Hun, B. A. Sheldon, U. G. Bigelow, and R. H. Thompson.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The President proposed the names of Drs. H. B. McHarg and C. C. Waller as members of the Society, they having exhibited satisfactory credentials and paid the requisite initiation fee; whereupon, on motion of Dr. Hun, they were admitted as members of the Society.

The President then proposed the name of Dr. John Swinburne as a member of this Society, and stated that the doctor had presented him with satisfactory credentials of membership, but had omitted to send the required initiation fee; whereupon, on motion of Dr. Hun, John Swinburne was admitted as a member of the Society, provided that he pay the requisite fee.

The President also presented to the Society the following communications:

Albany, July 5th, 1847.

Sir: Circumstances requiring my absence for some time from town, I beg to be permitted to place in your hands this letter of resignation of my office of Treasurer to the Albany County Medical Society.

I beg to enclose, at the same time, my check for \$18.87, being the balance belonging to the Society in my hands.

In thus terminating my official connection with the So-

ciety, I would thank you to express to its several members my deep sense of their unvaried kindness towards me for the several years during which I was honored with their confidence.

With the assurance of the sincere esteem for yourself personally I remain, dear sir,

Yours very truly,

E. B. O'CALLAGHAN, M. D.

M. F. Cogswell, Esq., M. D.;

Pres't A. C. Med. Soc.

Albany, June 12th, 1847.

Dr. Mason F. Cogswell,

Pres't of the A. C. Med. Soc.

Dear sir:

My intended departure from the city, the occasion of which I need not mention, obliges me to resign the office of Secretary of your Society. In doing so, permit me to tender to yourself and the other members of the Society, my acknowledgments of the pleasure which I have received from the performance of the duties of the office, and the many friendly associations which it has been the means of procuring me. If my discharge of these duties, humble and unimportant though they be, shall have met with the approval of my fellow members, I shall be abundantly compensated for any labor and time I may have expended upon them.

I am, dear sir,

very respectfully,

your obedient servant,

JOHN CAMPBELL.\*

On motion of R. H. Thompson, the foregoing communications were received and accepted.

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\* Dr. Campbell entered the regular service of the United States as assistant surgeon, and was for some years stationed in California. Since the war began Surgeon Campbell has served as Medical Director in Washington, and in every position with ability and fidelity.



In accordance with a notice, given at the last semi-annual meeting, in relation to altering the by-laws in reference to the time of holding the annual and semi-annual meetings,

Dr. Hun proposed the following resolution, which was adopted.

*Resolved*, That the hour of holding the annual and semi-annual meetings of this Society, be changed from 11 A. M. to three P. M.

A quorum for the election of officers not being present, and the Society being without a Treasurer and Secretary, on motion of Dr. Hun, R. H. Thompson was elected Secretary and Treasurer *pro tem*.

On motion of Dr. Hun, the Society then adjourned its annual meeting to the 23d inst. at 3 o'clock, P. M., very precisely.

R. H. THOMPSON, *Secretary, pro tem*.

*Adjourned Annual Meeting.*

Nov. 23d, 1847.

The Society met at the common council chamber, City Hall, at three o'clock, P. M. Present, Dr. Mason F. Cogswell, President, Drs. B. P. Staats, P. Van Buren, J. V. P. Quackenbush, H. B. McHarg, John Swinburne, B. A. Sheldon, U. G. Bigelow, C. C. Waller, C. C. Griffin, Jas. P. Boyd, Thomas Hun, Jas. M. Brown, R. H. Thompson, and J. H. Case.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The following resolution, presented by Dr. P. Van Buren, was adopted by the Society.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary transmit to one or more of physicians in each town of this county, a request from this Society to furnish a brief history of the diseases prevalent in such towns for the last ten years, and forward the same to the Secretary on or before the 15th of January, 1848.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the choice as follows:

Dr. Mason F. Cogswell, *President*.

Dr. Richard H. Thompson, *Vice-President*.

Dr. J. V. P. Quackenbush, *Secretary*.

Dr. C. C. Waller, *Treasurer*.

Dr. U. G. Bigelow, *Librarian*.

Drs. P. McNaughton, B. P. Staats, Jas. P. Boyd, P. Van Buren, and J. H. Case, *Censors*.

On motion, the Society then adjourned.

R. H. THOMPSON, *Secretary, pro tem*.

The Society held a special meeting Dec. 18th, 1847, in the common council chamber. Present, President M. F. Cogswell, Drs. William Bay, Peter Wendell, Jas. P. Boyd, Hinkley, H. B. McHarg, R. H. Thompson, and Quackenbush.

On motion of Dr. Wendell, seconded by Dr. Bay, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

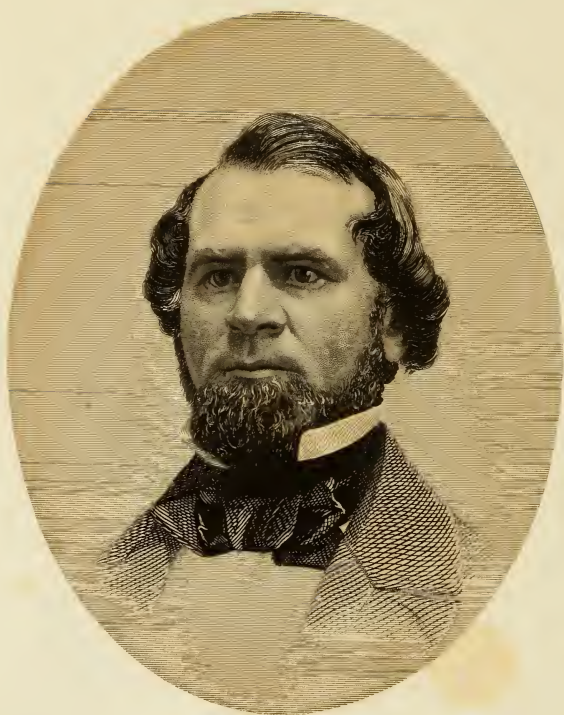
*Resolved*, That we have heard with deep regret of the death of Dr. Chas. D. Townsend, the oldest resident practitioner in this city, whose many amiable qualities and virtues have endeared him to the recollections of his friends, and whose assiduous and devoted attentions to the sick under his care have illustrated one of the highest traits in the character of a physician.

*Resolved*, That we, as a body, unite in paying the last tribute of respect to his memory by attending his funeral, and that we will wear the usual badge of mourning for one month.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be communicated to the family of the deceased with an expression of our sympathy in the severe loss they have sustained.

On motion of Dr. Bay, the Society adjourned to meet





JOHN V. P. QUACKENBUSH, M. D.,

*Prof. of Obstetrics, and President of the Society in 1853.*



in the common council chamber at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ , P. M., to attend the funeral of Dr. Townsend.

J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH, *Secretary*,

At a meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, held in the common council chamber, Feb. 2d, 1848, the following resolutions, offered by Dr. Van OLinda and seconded by Dr. R. H. Thompson, were unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That this Society have heard with regret of the sudden death of Dr. Isaiah Breakey, late one of their members.

*Resolved*, That although associated with this Society but a few years, Dr. Breakey, by his honorable and gentlemanly deportment, had commended himself to the good opinion and good feelings of his professional brethren.

*Resolved*, That the Society tender hereby their sympathy and condolence to his orphan children, and to his relatives, under their severe bereavement.

*Resolved*, That this Society will attend the funeral in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

MASON F. COGSWELL, *President*.

J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH, *Secretary*.

Albany, March 16th, 1848.

The Society held a special meeting in the common council chamber. Present, Mason F. Cogswell, President, Drs. Bay, Staats, Boyd, Peter Van Buren, Case, Hun, Sheldon, Thompson, and Quackenbush.

Dr. Hun, chairman of the committee to prepare a memorial, to be presented to the common council, read the memorial and gave a history of the progress of the same.

On motion of Dr. Van Buren, the committee were instructed to wait on the common council committee to confer with them in relation to the memorial.

A resolution was offered by Dr. Thompson, that a committee be appointed to interrogate the candidates for the

office of Alderman, in relation to their views as to the establishing a dispensary, which after considerable discussion was lost.

On motion of Dr. Thompson, the Society proceeded to the election of delegates to the National Medical Convention to be held in Philadelphia in May, 1848, which resulted in the choice of the following gentlemen :

Drs. Hun, Boyd, Cogswell and Van Buren, with power to appoint their substitutes.

On motion the Society adjourned.

JOHN V. P. QUACKENBUSH, *Secretary*.

The Semi-Annual meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the common council chamber, June 13th, 1848. Present, Drs. Mason F. Cogswell, President, R. H. Thompson, Vice-President, Bay, McNaughton, Van Buren, Burrus, Case, Swinburne, Sheldon, Waller, and Quackenbush..

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On motion of Drs. Cogswell, Sylvester D. Willard, Henry B. Fay, Alexander W. McNaughton and Edward H. Clarke were elected members of the Society.

The Vice-President, Dr. Thompson, delivered the semi annual address, which was listened to with much interest and for which the thanks of the Society, on motion of Dr. McNaughton, were presented to him, with the request that he would afford the Society a copy for insertion on the minutes.

On motion of Dr. Van Buren, a committee was appointed to confer with the committee on the part of the common council in relation to the establishment of a dispensary. The following were appointed such committee: Drs. Van Buren, Hun and Quackenbush.

On motion of Dr. Thompson it was resolved that the President call on all the members present for any interest-

ing cases which they may have had in their practice ; pending which motion, Drs. Thompson, Burrus, and Van Buren addressed the Society in relation to its interests and its future advancement. After which, on motion,

The Society adjourned.

JOHN V. P. QUACKENBUSH, *Secretary*.

At a meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, held in the common council chamber, August 11, 1848, the following resolutions, offered by Dr. Bay and seconded by Dr. March, were unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That this Society has heard with deep sorrow of the death of its worthy and venerable member, Dr. Jonathan Eights.

*Resolved*, That by this death the Society has lost a member who, from its foundation, has always been ready to co-operate in promoting its interests and its dignity ; and who by the purity of his life, and by the faithful and disinterested discharge of his duties, during a practice of half a century, has been an ornament and an example to his profession.

*Resolved*, That to show our respect for his memory, the members of this Society will attend his funeral, and will wear the usual badge of mourning.

*Resolved*, That we sincerely sympathize with the family of the deceased, and that they be presented with a copy of these resolutions.

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be published.

*Resolved*, That we adjourn to meet Saturday afternoon at 3½ o'clock, in this place.

MASON F. COGSWELL, *President*.

J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH, *Secretary*.

Annual meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, held in the common council room, City Hall, Nov. 14th, 1848.

Present, Dr. R. H. Thompson, Vice-President, Drs. J. H. Case, Wendell, Staats, P. Van Buren, Sheldon, Swinburne, Armsby, Waller, U. G. Bigelow, A. McNaughton, Edward Clark, S. D. Willard, C. C. Griffin, S. H. Freeman, J. P. Boyd, and Brown.

The President being absent, the Vice-President took the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The report of the Treasurer was read and approved of, and is as follows :

*C. C. Waller, Treasurer in account with Albany County Medical Society.*

| 1847.                        |                | 1847.                        |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| To cash received from late   |                | Dec. 20. By cash paid pr.    |                |
| Treasurer,.....              | \$61.55        | Crape,.....                  | 2.19           |
| 1848.                        |                | 1848.                        |                |
| To initiating fees from Drs. |                | Jan. 21. By cash paid Ed.    |                |
| S. D. Willard and A.         |                | Morning Express,.....        | 0.75           |
| W. McNaughton,.....          | 6.00           | Feb. 10. By cash paid Dr. P. |                |
|                              |                | Van Buren State Del.,        | 5.00           |
|                              |                | Apr. 24. By cash paid pr.    |                |
|                              |                | Crape,.....                  | 0.31           |
|                              |                | July 9. By cash paid Albany  |                |
|                              |                | Argus,.....                  | 2.25           |
|                              |                | Oct. 24. By cash paid M. Ex- |                |
|                              |                | press,.....                  | 1.75           |
|                              |                | By balance on hand,.....     | 55.30          |
|                              | <u>\$67.55</u> |                              | <u>\$67.55</u> |

Dr. Peter Van Buren, chairman of committee on medical dispensary, read his report, which was accepted and ordered to be sent to the common council.

Dr. B. P. Staats made a few remarks in relation to the air pump, as a substitute for the catheter.

Dr. P. Van Buren narrated two interesting cases of puerperal convulsions, with their treatment and results.

Dr. Sheldon narrated a case of fracture of femur with its treatment and results.

Dr. Case, after a few remarks in relation to the mutual improvement system, narrated a case of fever.

Drs. Wm. Geoghegan and Paul T. Taber were proposed,



and having exhibited satisfactory credentials, were thereupon unanimously admitted members of this Society.

Drs. Carhart, Lyons, and Howard Townsend, were proposed and referred to the President.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows :

Dr. James McNaughton, *President*.

Dr. John Swinburne, *Vice-President*.

Dr. Benj. A. Sheldon, *Secretary*.

Dr. C. C. Waller, *Treasurer*.

Dr. C. C. Griffin, *Librarian*.

Dr. R. H. Thompson, *State Delegate*, 4 years.

Drs. J. H. Armsby, P. McNaughton, J. H. Case, U. G. Bigelow, and Burris, *Censors*.

On motion, meeting adjourned.

JOHN V. P. QUACKENBUSH, *Secretary*.

*A Special Meeting.*

April 27th, 1849.

The Society met at the common council chamber, City Hall, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Present, Drs. James McNaughton, R. H. Thompson, Peter Van Buren, John H. Case, John Swinburne, C. C. Griffin, S. D. Willard, and B. A. Sheldon.

The President stated the object of the meeting, to be the appointment of delegates to the National Medical Convention, to be held at Boston on the 2d day of May, 1849, and also the appointment of Treasurer in the place of Dr. Waller, resigned.

Dr. Waller's report was read and accepted, and ordered on file.

The President offered the following communication to the Albany County Medical Society.

Gentlemen: Circumstances requiring my absence from the city for sometime, I am compelled to resign the office of Treasurer of your Society. I thank you for honoring



The following gentlemen were elected delegates to the National Medical Convention, to be held at Boston, viz. :

Drs. Peter Van Buren, R. H. Thompson, Boyd, and B. P. Staats, with power to substitute. Dr. Van Buren offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That hereafter, until otherwise ordered by this Society, a dinner shall be provided for such members of the Society as are in attendance, at each annual and semi-annual meeting, at the expense of the Society, at such hour and place as it shall direct ; and that the President, Secretary, and Treasurer be a committee to carry the above into effect.

Dr. Thompson offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That hereafter the State Delegate be and is hereby authorized to procure a sufficient number of copies of the Proceedings of the State Medical Society annually, so that each member can be furnished with a copy of said Transactions.

Dr. Thompson made a few remarks upon a class of imposing citizens, who were able to pay their physicians but did not. He therefore moved that a committee of three be appointed to make necessary arrangements to avoid their impositions :

The chair appointed Drs. Thompson, Swinburne, and Griffin, that committee, to report at the semi-annual meeting of the Society.

On Dr. Van Buren's motion the Society adjourned.

BENJAMIN A. SHELDON, *Secretary*.

### *The Semi-Annual Meeting.*

June 12th, 1849, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Society met in the common council room in the City Hall pursuant to public notice.

Present, Dr. James McNaughton, President, Drs. Alden March, P. P. Staats, J. H. Case, P. Van O Linda,

Thompson, Dickson, Warren, H. Townsend, J. Swinburne, J. B. Rossman, S. D. Willard, and B. A. Sheldon.

Minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

The select committee, to whom was assigned the duty of reporting to this Society some plan which if adopted would have a tendency to protect the profession against the impositions which are practiced upon it by *willful non-paying patrons*, reported the following resolutions which were adopted.

*Resolved*, 1st. That each member of this Society, will hereafter carefully and justly register the name and residence of every patron or patient, within his knowledge, who willfully refuses or neglects to compensate his medical attendant or family physician.

*Resolved*, 2d. That at each annual meeting each member of this Society will communicate to the Secretary a complete and exact list of all persons whom he may thus register; and that the secretary be and is hereby authorized to arrange alphabetically, and print in pamphlet form at the expense and for the benefit of the Society the names and residence of all persons thus registered, carefully observing to prefix some characteristic to each name thus printed which shall show by whom the said name or names were registered.

R. H. THOMPSON, }  
JOHN SWINBURNE, } *Com.*  
C. C. GRIFFIN, }

The President stated that Dr. Quackenbush declined serving in the office of treasurer, to which he was elected by the Society at the special meeting. When on motion of Dr. Thompson the Society went into an election for Treasurer, which resulted in the choice of Dr. J. B. Rossman.

The Vice-President, Dr. John Swinburne, delivered the semi-annual address which was listened to with much interest.



Dr. Thompson offered the following:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society be and are hereby tendered to Dr. John Swinburne for his excellent practical address, and that a copy of the same be sent as a communication to the State Medical Society.

Adopted.

Dr. March made a few remarks in relation to the distributing of lime in the streets, and offered the following preamble and resolutions.

Whereas, this Society have observed that the board of health have ordered our streets to be strewed with lime (under the impression as is supposed) that it is a disinfecting agent, calculated to prevent the spread of cholera, which has recently made its appearance in a few instances among our citizens; and

Whereas, in the opinion of this Society, neither lime nor chloride of lime possess any power to prevent the introduction and spread of cholera; and

Whereas, the strong and gloomy impression which our whitened streets is calculated to make on the minds of timid citizens, the revolting and alarming effect which it is well calculated to produce on persons from the country, who are in the habit of visiting the city on business, and the paralyzing effect which it will be likely to produce on our citizens in preventing them from sweeping and attending to other means of cleanliness. Therefore

*Resolved*, As the sense of this Society, that the practice of spreading lime on our streets is not only useless, but indirectly injurious to the health and happiness of the citizens, and highly detrimental to the business interests of our city.

The question was on the adoption of the resolutions. when a question arose whether lime or chloride of lime were disinfecting agents or not. The subject was ably discussed by Drs. March, McNaughton, P. P. Staats Van O-Linda, Case, Townsend, Thompson, Warren, and Dickson.

When, on motion of Dr. Thompson, the subject was referred to a committee of three to report at the next meeting of the Society. The chair announced that committee to be Drs. T. R. Beck, Hun, and Townsend.

Dr. S. D. Willard offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the board of health receive the thanks of this Society, for their earnest endeavors to promote the sanitary condition of the city.

On motion of Dr. P. P. Staats the Society adjourned to meet again on Tuesday the 19th inst., at 4 o'clock, P. M.

B. A. SHELDON, *Secretary*.

*An Adjourned Meeting.*

Albany, June 19th, 1849, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Society met in the common council chamber, in the City Hall, pursuant to notice. Present, Dr. James McNaughton, President, Drs. Joel A. Wing, P. P. Staats, M. F. Cogswell, Quackenbush, Thompson, Griffin, Rossman, Swinburne, Willard, Townsend and Sheldon.

The minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

Dr. Townsend, one of the committee on the disinfecting agents of chloride of lime, made his report which was accepted and adopted.

Dr. Thompson offered the following:

*Resolved*, That the report of the select committee, in reference to the disinfecting agency of lime in staying the ravages of cholera, be and is hereby adopted; and that a copy of the same be published in the city papers.

On motion of Dr. Thompson, the meeting adjourned.

B. A. SHELDON, *Secretary*.

*Albany County Medical Society.*

A special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held at the common council room in the City Hall on Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock. The President an-

nounced to the Society the death of Peter Wendell, M. D., and made some appropriate remarks on the many estimable qualities of the deceased. Whereupon, the following resolutions were offered by T. Romeyn Beck, M. D., and unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That this Society receive with great regret, the announcement of the death of one of its earliest and most eminent members.

*Resolved*, That while the members most sincerely sympathize with his family and his friends, in the severe loss they have experienced, they are still consoled by the recollection that the life of Dr. Wendell has been spent in the exercise of one of the best of human pursuits, and that his career has been distinguished by unwearied attention to the welfare of the sick, and by honest and successful endeavors to uphold and advance the usefulness and dignity of his profession.

*Resolved*, As a just tribute of respect to his memory, that this Society will attend the funeral ceremonies in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be communicated to the family of the deceased, and also be published.

By order.

JAS. McNAUGHTON, *President*.

Nov., 1849.

B. A. SHELDON, *Secretary*.

*Annual Meeting.*

Albany, Nov. 13th, 1849, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Society met in the common council chamber pursuant to public notice. Present, Dr. James McNaughton, President. Drs. P. McNaughton, B. P. Staats, J. B. Rossman, J. H. Case, R. H. Thompson, H. Townsend, C. C. Griffin, John Swinburne, J. F. Townsend, P. Van Buren, W. Geoghegan, J. V. P. Quackenbush, J. Van Buren, Thomas Hun, and B. A. Sheldon.

The Treasurer's report was read and adopted.

Dr. Thompson proposed the name of David Wiltsie as a member of the Society, he having exhibited satisfactory credentials. Dr. Wiltsie was thereupon admitted as a member of the Society.

The President, Dr. J. McNaughton, delivered the annual address.

Dr. P. Van Buren offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to the President for his interesting address, and that he be requested to furnish a copy to the Delegate of this Society, to be presented to the State Medical Society.\*

Dr. P. Van Buren offered the following resolution which was adopted

*Resolved*, That the resolution adopted by the Society, directing its officers, to provide at its regular meetings a dinner for its members at the expense of the Society, be and is hereby rescinded.

The Society then went into an election for its officers which resulted in the choice of

Dr. James McNaughton, *President*.

Dr. John Swinburne, *Vice-President*.

Dr. B. A. Sheldon, *Secretary*.

Dr. J. B. Rossman, *Treasurer*,

Dr. C. C. Griffin, *Librarian*.

Drs. P. McNaughton, H. Townsend, U. G. Bigelow, J. H. Case, and D. R. Burrus, *Censors*.\*

Dr. Hun offered the following resolution which was not adopted:

*Resolved*, That the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Society, requiring members to furnish a list of persons who have refused to pay their bills for medical services, be rescinded.

On motion the Society adjourned.

B. A. SHELDON, *Secretary*.

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\* Transactions of 1850, p. 126.



*Semi-Annual Meeting.*

Albany, June 11th, 1850.

The Society met in the common council chamber pursuant to public notice. Present, Dr. James McNaughton, President. Drs. J. B. Rossman, John Van Buren, J. H. Case, S. D. Willard, U. G. Bigelow, C. C. Griffin, Samuel Dickson, David Wiltsie, John Swinburne, William Geoghegan, Peter Van O Linda, R. H. Thompson, and B. A. Sheldon.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer made his semi-annual report which was accepted and ordered on file.

*Albany County Medical Society in account with J. B. Rossman.*

| Dr.                                |                                      | Cr.            |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Expenditures (as found on Journal) | By amount of cash received up to the |                |
| at different times,..... \$97.38   | 11th day of June,.....               | \$110.55       |
|                                    |                                      | 97.38          |
|                                    | Balance,.....                        | <u>\$13.17</u> |

The President proposed the names of Augustus Viele, Abraham McKown, and Alonzo G. Westervelt as members of the Society, they having exhibited satisfactory credentials.

Drs. Viele, McKown, and Westervelt were thereupon admitted as members of the Society.

Dr. Reinhart presented his credentials for examination and made application to become a member of the Society. The credentials were referred to committee.

The Vice-President, Dr. John Swinburne, delivered his semi-annual address on the treatment of puerperal fever and erysipelas, which was listened to with interest.

Dr. Willard offered the following resolution which was adopted:

*Resolved,* That the thanks of the Society be and are

hereby tendered to Dr. Swinburne for the very interesting address to which we have just listened; and that a copy of the same be requested and sent to the State Medical Society, as a communication.

Dr. Thompson offered the following resolution, which was adopted.

*Resolved*, That Drs. James McNaughton, Joel A. Wing, Alden March, Thomas Hun, Mason F. Cogswell, John Swinburne, and Peter Van OLinda be and are hereby appointed a committee, whose duty it shall be to investigate the propriety of excluding medicines, as a general thing, from our offices in this city, and relying hereafter exclusively on the apothecary for making or putting up our recipes.

*Resolved*, That the foregoing committee be and is hereby requested to take the above subject into immediate consideration, and report the result of the same to this Society as soon as may be practicable at a special meeting.

Dr. Griffin offered the following, which was not adopted:

*Resolved*, That the resolution requiring the report of names of non-paying patrons be and is hereby rescinded.

Dr. Case offered the following, which was not adopted:

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to co-operate with the Secretary and advise with in regard to the propriety of publishing any doubtful names.

Dr. Griffin offered the following, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That all names which have been heretofore reported, and all which shall be reported at the next annual meeting, shall be read and revised at said meeting before being printed.

On motion of Dr. Thompson, the Secretary was ordered to get sufficient number of blank notices printed for the Society's use.

On motion the Society adjourned.

B. A. SHELDON, *Secretary*.

*Annual Meeting.*

Albany, Nov. 12th, 1850, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Society met in the common council chamber pursuant to public notice. Present, Dr. James McNaughton, President, Drs. J. B. Rossman, P. P. Staats, Peter Van OLinda, L. G. Warren, S. D. Willard, U. G. Bigelow, John Swinburne, J. M. Brown, J. V. P. Quackenbush, Wm. Geoghegan, Peter McNaughton, J. H. Case, W. F. Carter, Augustus Viele, and B. A. Sheldon.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer made his annual report which was approved and ordered on file, as follows:

*J. B. Rossman in account with the Albany County Medical Society.*

| DR.                            |                | CR.                           |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1850.                          |                | 1850.                         |                |
| Nov. 11th. To cash on hand,... | \$12.17        | Nov. 11th. Paid H. D. Stone   |                |
| To initiation fees of two mem- |                | bill per Secretary,.....      | \$4.00         |
| bers, .....                    | 6.00           | Nov. 12th. Cash on hand,..... | 16.17          |
| To cash for taxes,.....        | 2.00           |                               |                |
|                                | <u>\$20.17</u> |                               | <u>\$20.17</u> |

The committee on Jacob Reinhart reported favorable to his admission as a member, whereupon he was admitted as a member of the Society.

Dr. Willard proposed the names of Drs. Thomas H. Neeley and James H. Salisbury as members of the Society, they having exhibited satisfactory credentials.

Drs. Thomas H. Neeley and James H. Salisbury were thereupon admitted as members of the Society.

Dr. James McNaughton, chairman of special committee on the expediency of excluding medicines from private offices, made his report, which was accepted and ordered on file, and is as follows:

The committee, to whom was referred the resolution offered by Dr. Thompson at the semi-annual meeting, relative to the propriety of excluding medicines from our

offices in this city, and relying hereafter on the apothecary for making and putting up our recipes, respectfully report: that there exists a difference of opinion among the members of the committee in respect to the matter referred to them. While all might admit the convenience to themselves of being relieved from the trouble of preparing and sending out medicines, the subject has other bearings which, in the estimation of some, counterbalance these disadvantages. It is believed by some that the habit of preparing medicines in private offices has a tendency to make students more familiar with medicines, and better qualified to prescribe them judiciously and profitably than if all their knowledge were derived from books, or lectures, or from a cursory examination in an apothecary shop.

It is the opinion of the most experienced teachers of medicine, that even with the present advantages afforded in private offices to become well acquainted with the chief articles of the *materia medica*, there is scarcely any department of the profession with which students generally are less accurately acquainted than with that very important branch of practical medicine. It is convenient for all medical men to keep some medicines in their offices and in their pockets for immediate use; and in country practice it is indispensably necessary to keep and prepare medicines. Influenced by these and other considerations, which your committee do not deem it necessary at present to dwell upon, it is not thought advisable to recommend to the members of the Society, residing in the city, to exclude medicine entirely from their offices. But the undersigned are of opinion that it would be well if the older and well established physicians, and those who do not keep pupils, should set the example of getting prescriptions made up at the apothecary shop, and requiring in all cases, when convenient, that patients, or their friends, should send for their medicines.

In this way much of the present trouble might be avoid-







HOWARD TOWNSEND, M. D.,

*Prof. of Materia Medica, and President of the Society in 1862.*

ed, and the public would be gradually prepared for a more complete reliance on the apothecary to prepare medicines than at present.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES McNAUGHTON, *Chairman*.

P. VAN OLINDA.

JOHN SWINBURNE.

The President, Dr. James McNaughton, delivered his annual address, whereupon Dr. Van OLinda offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to the President for his able and interesting address, and a copy requested for the use of the Society.

The Society then went into an election for its officers for the ensuing year. The President and Vice-President having declined being candidates for reelection, the balloting resulted as follows :

Dr. James H. Armsby, *President*.

Dr. Wm. F. Carter, *Vice-President*.

Dr. B. A. Sheldon, *Secretary*.

Dr. J. B. Rossman, *Treasurer*.

Dr. John Swinburne, *Librarian*.

Drs. Peter McNaughton, Howard Townsend, U. G. Bigelow, L. G. Warren, and J. P. Boyd, *Censors*.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

B. A. SHELDON, *Secretary*.

#### *Semi-Annual Meeting.*

Albany, June 10th, 1851.

The Society met in the City Hall pursuant to public notice. Present, Drs. J. H. Armsby, J. H. Case, P. Van Buren, J. B. Rossman, Howard Townsend, Quackenbush, Samuel Dickson, C. C. Waller, Augustus Viele, and B. A. Sheldon.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer made his semi-annual report which was approved and ordered on file, and is as follows:

*Albany County Medical Society in account with J. B. Rossman, Treasurer.*

| DR.                            |               | CR.                                    |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 1850.                          |               |  |
| Dec. 12. Paid boy for collect- |               | By amount due last report,... \$16.17  |
| ing,.....                      | \$1.00        | Nov. 12, 1850. Dr. Jacob Rein-         |
| Feb. 2. Delegate, .....        | 5.00          | hart, initiation fees,..... 3.00       |
| March 20. Paid Stone and       |               | Dr. P. P. Staats, tax '49 and '50 2.00 |
| Henly adv. bill, .....         | 0.50          | Drs. Armsby, Freeman, Cogs-            |
|                                |               | well, Hun, and Peter Mc-               |
|                                |               | Naughton, tax for 1850, 5.00           |
|                                | <u>\$6.50</u> |  |
|                                |               | <u>\$26.17</u>                         |
|                                |               | 6.50                                   |
|                                |               | <u>\$19.67</u>                         |

The propriety of establishing a reading room was discussed, whereupon Dr. P. Van Buren offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to inquire whether a suitable room can be procured, to be used as a reading room, and if so to inquire into the propriety of making annual appropriations for the purchase of medical periodicals, to be deposited in said room for the use of the members of this Society.

The President appointed, Drs. Peter Van Buren, B. A. Sheldon, and J. B. Rossman that committee.

The semi-annual address was omitted in consequence of Vice-President being absent.

Dr. Peter Van Buren offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the President and Secretary cause to be published, if necessary for the use of this Society, a new edition of the by-laws of this Society, and also purchase a book for the Secretary of this Society.

On motion of Dr. Quackenbush the Society adjourned.

B. A. SHELDON, *Secretary*.



## BIOGRAPHIES.

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[The design of this volume is only to notice those members of the Society now deceased; but as it is regarded important to preserve as complete a history of the Institution as possible, and there are a few members who survive in venerable age who were so associated with its early history that it has been thought proper to add brief notices of them.]

### ALEXANDER GLEN FONDA.

Alexander G. Fonda was born in Schenectady on the 17th day of August, 1785. His father was Colonel Fonda, and rendered efficient service to the cause of the colonies in the revolutionary war. He was graduated at Union College in 1803, a class mate of Dr. Thomas Dunlap of Schenectady, and the Rev. Dr. James M. Matthews of New York city. Alexander studied medicine under the direction of Dr. Archibald H. Adams, who is subsequently noticed in this volume, and was licensed to practice in May, 1806. Two months later, the first meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held under the new law, and Dr. Fonda came from Schenectady to be present. The venerable Dr. Mancius presided, and as he cast his large piercing eyes over the little number gathered for its organization they rested with severe scrutiny upon the smooth face and youthful form of young Fonda, and he remarked with seeming austerity that he supposed all who were present were licensed practitioners. Dr. Fonda knowing that the remark was intended for him only, replied with all confidence and suavity that his license had been granted

in the May previous, but he did not think it important to tell the old doctor that he had not yet attained his majority; for in the eyes of such a man youth has a species of unpardonable sin.

For many years Dr. Fonda quietly pursued his profession in his native city, and at length retired from its active duties to the enjoyment and quietude of domestic life in the tranquillity of which old age has come gently upon him.

Half a hundred years had rolled away, and Dr. Fonda came back in 1856, to join in the Society's semi-centennial celebration. It was to him apparently an event of great pleasure and satisfaction. Dr. Augustus Harris and himself, of the original members, had survived the half century, but the former died a few months afterward. Dr. Fonda is now in the seventy-ninth year of his age. May his long and useful life close only to witness the morning of a more glorious day.

A brother likewise studied medicine, and died in one of the southern states where he had gone to reside. For nearly twenty years Dr. Fonda has been represented in the profession in this city by his son, Dr. David E. Fonda.

### JACOB LANSING VAN DEUSEN.

Jacob L. Van Deusen sprang from the Holland stock, as well known for its manly virtues as its talent and its sturdy patriotism. His father was Jacob Van Deusen, who was born at Hudson, N. Y., in 1748, and died in 1814. Jacob Lansing was born at Albany, July 17th, 1785. He had but one brother, Abraham, a merchant of large business at Schuylerville.

He received a classical education at the academy of Cambridge, N. Y.

At the close of his academic career, he happily chose the medical profession as his walk, pursuing his studies

under Dr. Hunloke Woodruff in the city of Albany. And there too he received his degree, September 8th, 1806. This was granted by the University of the State of New York. On presenting his diploma to the young candidate after he had ably sustained the ordeal of the examination of those days, the Chancellor, John Lansing, Jr. (a kinsman of Dr. Van Deusen's), remarked: "Remember, my young friend, that I have now made a doctor of you, and I trust you will be an honor to your profession." This kindly admonition is well remembered by the *then* young doctor in his present old age, and his career attests forcibly how faithfully he treasured and acted upon that golden "word in season."

But though well grounded in the rudiments of his calling, Dr. V. D. was not content to commence practice without availing himself of all furtherances to a complete preparation within his reach. Philadelphia was then the seat of the highest medical instruction in the Union; and it need only be said, in proof of this, that the principal lecturers at its college were Drs. Rush, and Physic. Thither he proceeded, therefore, with his friends, Drs. Peter Wendell and Simeon Vedder.

It may be mentioned, as a striking illustration of the difference brought about in 60 years, that the friends were *seven days* on their voyage from Albany to New York in the good sloop Eagle, Captain Pruyn; and then they were a day and a half crossing New Jersey to Philadelphia—a distance now traveled in three hours by the aid of steam and rail road.

Following his Philadelphia sojourn, Dr. Van Deusen, commenced his active career at Albany, where he practiced twelve years, and among his most pleasing reminiscences are those of his associations with his professional brethren in that city.

The cause that led Dr. Van Deusen to change his field of labor was a pulmonary affection, threatening serious

consequences. His friends and associates, Drs. Elias Willard, Townsend, Eights, and Stearns, advised him to go where a country practice would compel exercise and healthful exposure, for it was probably the sedentary and indoor life of a city which was the secret of his illness. He wisely and happily took the counsel, which coincided with his own views, and, accepting an invitation from Gen. Wadsworth and his brother James Wadsworth, located himself at Geneseo in that portion of Western New York then just developing its present vast resources. There he remained some four years, when he providentially changed his abode for the last time, founding his hearthstone at Montague, New Jersey, in the pure air and among the proverbially healthful hills of "old Sussex." And there he completed the faithful work of a life ; and there, where he experienced its vicissitudes, its comforts as well as its trials, where his children grew up around him like olive plants, where the first frost of autumn whitened his locks and the snows of winter fell on his head, he still remains.

He was always happily devoted to his profession. He pursued it with his whole heart, and never gave it a half allegiance. Hence he was never a political aspirant, though always ready to meet his duties as a citizen, more especially in the offices connected with schools, which he repeatedly filled. At Albany he was a city physician by appointment, and also held the commission of surgeon to a regiment of artillery, a post tendered to him by Gov. Tompkins. But the one earnest object of his life was the kindly ministrations of his profession to the alleviations of human suffering ; and it is the comfort of his genial age to know that he was never allured from his mission by the attractions of place or power, or at the call of vulgar ambition.

Every active mind has its favorite walk ; and Dr. Van Deusen's specialty in surgery was in diseases of the eye. He was singularly successful in operations for cataract, effecting numerous cures both by couching and extraction. And



it is his comfort to say that he has no inclination to rival the boasts of Baron Wenzer, that in *his* operations he had “destroyed a hat full of eyes.”

Dr. Van Deusen relinquished the practice of his profession about 1860.

He was singularly happy in his family relations, and his children can “rise up and call him blessed.” Of his eight sons, six are living; and of those, five are engaged in pursuits closely allied to their father’s profession; four of them being druggists at Rondout and Kingston.

Such is the brief outline of a life of earnest usefulness; and he has his reward for his fidelity. The blessing of Heaven is on his head. He is surrounded by affectionate children, loving and honoring him; he has all the comforts of life to excite him to a grateful acknowledgment to “the giver of *every* good and perfect gift,” and in the assurance of a faith that never wavered or doubted, he can serenely await the last summons. The “shock of corn fully ripe” is ready for the garner. And when the inevitable hour comes, he at least will meet it,

“Like one who folds the drapery of his couch about him  
And lies down to pleasant dreams.”

### WILLIAM BAY.

During the reign of that voluptuous monarch, Louis XIV of France, the Protestant Christians, known as Huguenots, suffered many and great persecutions on account of their religious faith, and were likewise deprived of most of their civil rights. The privileges guarantied to them under the edict of 1562 was revoked by that wicked sovereign under the edict of Nantes in 1685. So great had been the persecutions, that within a short time previous more than half a million of Huguenots fled into Switzerland, Germany, Holland, and England, notwithstanding the vigilance that

was exercised to prevent their escape. Their industry and their skill found a welcome reception in those countries. The ancestors of Dr. Bay were of those Huguenots who fled first into Holland, and subsequently went to Ireland; from whence Mrs. Bay, his great grandmother, with her two sons, Andrew\* and William, came to America and settled in Maryland about the year 1720. Andrew was a clergyman of the Presbyterian church and lived for a time in Albany. William remained in Maryland. His son was John Bay who was born in 1743, and died in 1818. The wife of John Bay was Ann Williams, who was born in 1745, and died in 1845, at the age of one hundred years.

William Bay, the subject of this notice was the second of six children of John and Ann (Williams) Bay, and was born in the city of Albany in the reign of George the third, on the 14th day of October, 1773. William passed his boyhood in the city, and so essentially were the population Dutch that but few of his playfellows could speak any other than the Dutch language. When he was a lad, his father removed to Claverack in Columbia county where no inconsiderable portion of his large property was located. At a suitable age William was sent to Princeton College, New Jersey, then the great literary school of the Middle States, where his father graduated in 1765. He remained in college until his senior year, when ill health obliged him for a time to relinquish his studies. Having determined to study medicine he went to New York in 1794, and became a private pupil of Dr. William Pitt Smith, an eminent physician in that city. The only medical school in the state was Columbia College, and in its corps of distinguished professors were Smith, Post, Mitchell, Rogers, Hosack, and Hammersley. Dr. Smith, in addition to his other offices, held the arduous and responsible

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\* A notice of Rev. Andrew Bay may be found in Webster's History of the Presbyterian Church in America, p. 573.

one of health officer to the port, and in the discharge of its laborious duties fell a victim to inflammation of the lungs in 1795. In the interval between his death and the appointment of his successor (Dr. Richard Bailey), being about four months, the office was temporarily filled by Dr. William Bay. He next became a pupil of the eminent Dr. Samuel Latham Mitchell, and remained in his office until he graduated as doctor in medicine in May, 1797.

The subject of his inaugural thesis was, "The operation of Pestilential Fluids upon the Large Intestines, termed by Nosologists, Dysentery," This was published by T. & J. Swords, 1797, 8vo., pp. 109.

A review of this dissertation was published in the *New York Medical Repository* (vol. 1, p. 110), and occupies over six pages. The review concludes thus:—"Whatever variety of opinion or discordancy of facts may exist on this subject, we are persuaded that the most perfect unanimity will prevail in considering the principles set forth by Mr. Bay, and supported by so many powerful arguments, as highly interesting to the science of medicine, and the welfare of mankind; and we are convinced the same unanimity will be felt in ascribing to our author, the praise of diligence, ingenuity, and a comprehensive survey of the subject on which he treats. This early fruit of his studies, worthy a more advanced age and mature experience, leaves us no room to doubt that his future professional career will be alike honorable to himself and useful to his country."

Dr. Bay returned from New York to his home in Claverack, where he immediately began the pursuit of his profession. His business and his reputation alike rapidly increased, and his skill was sought throughout an extensive district; but after a few years he found a large country practice exceedingly laborious, and in 1810 he was induced to remove to Albany, where he formed a business relation with Dr. McClelland, who died a few months subsequently, and left Dr. Bay at once in a large field of practice. He

was elastic with health, and in the vigor of early manhood, with zeal in his profession, and he at once became a leading practitioner. He was esteemed a skillful accoucheur, in which his experience was very large and valuable, and his medical brethren frequently sought his counsel in difficult cases.

Dr. Bay married Catharine, a sister of Wm. W. Van Ness in 1797; they had four children, three of whom are still living. Mrs. Bay was a beautiful example of a cultivated Christian woman; she lived with her husband sixty-eight years, and died at the age of eighty-seven years, on the 24th of January, 1864.

Dr. Bay continued in practice for sixty-three years; at first withdrawing from its more active duties, and at length entirely from its cares.

Upon the completion of his half century in practice, the profession of his native city gave him a public dinner, in honor of the occasion, and in appreciation of his long and faithful services as a citizen and a physician. The event took place at Congress Hall in April, 1847, and was one of delightful harmony and good feeling. His venerable colleague, Dr. Eights, was too ill to be present, but who, with Beck, and Wendell, and Wing, and many others who were present and gave dignity to the occasion, have passed away.

Several years later the Medical Society, in 1856, held its semi-centennial anniversary. Dr. Alexander Fonda, one of its original members was present. One other member survived, but Dr. Bay was the patriarch of the occasion, and was addressed by the orator in terms of cordial congratulations. He was present also at the festivities of the evening, and responded to the sentiment that called him to the floor.

Dr. Bay still survives, full of venerable dignity and full of years (since the death of John Rodman Coxe, on the



23d March, 1864), probably the oldest physician in the country. He stands like the venerable oak where the forests around it have fallen. His life time covers the period of the birth and growth of a great nation. Its infancy was in his boyhood; he has seen it wax strong, and now witnesses the conclusive struggle that threatens its downfall. May he still survive to know of its once more peaceful and united prosperity.

Dr. Bay was born in circumstances of affluence; his father was an educated and accomplished lawyer, conspicuous among his associates for his integrity, for his courteous and accomplished manners, a member of the committee of public safety, and associated with the public men of his times. His home was the abode of a cultivated and attractive hospitality. These influences gave his son the advantages of high social position, and the training of cheerfulness and amiability which has characterized his life, a life of professional energy, moral integrity, and of Christian worth and virtue. The shades of its evening are drawing on, and Dr. Bay in his ninety-first year, in remarkable mental elasticity and Christian cheerfulness, is patiently waiting the close of his long pilgrimage. May it be attended with every blessing.

A brother, Thomas Bay, was a lawyer of prominence, and mayor of Hudson; he died in 1832; a venerable brother, John Bay, resided with the doctor until his death on the 15th of April, 1864, at the age of eighty-two years. His son, Dr. John W. Bay, graduated in New York in 1823, but abandoned the practice of his profession many years ago.

### PLATT WILLIAMS.

Platt Williams was born in the town of Huntington, Suffolk county, New York, on the 19th day of September, 1784. He entered Williams College and gradu-

ated with the class of 1804. Among his classmates were Victory Birdsey, Luther Bradish, and Nathan Hale, who have occupied distinguished judicial, political and literary positions. Immediately after receiving his collegiate degree he came to Albany and began the study of medicine with Dr. Elias Willard, who at that time was one of the most prominent physicians in the city. During the years 1806, 1807, and 1808 he prosecuted his studies at the Columbia in the city of New York, and subsequently at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Williams's preparatory studies were long and severe, and he came into the profession a well read student. He commenced the practice of medicine in June, 1810.

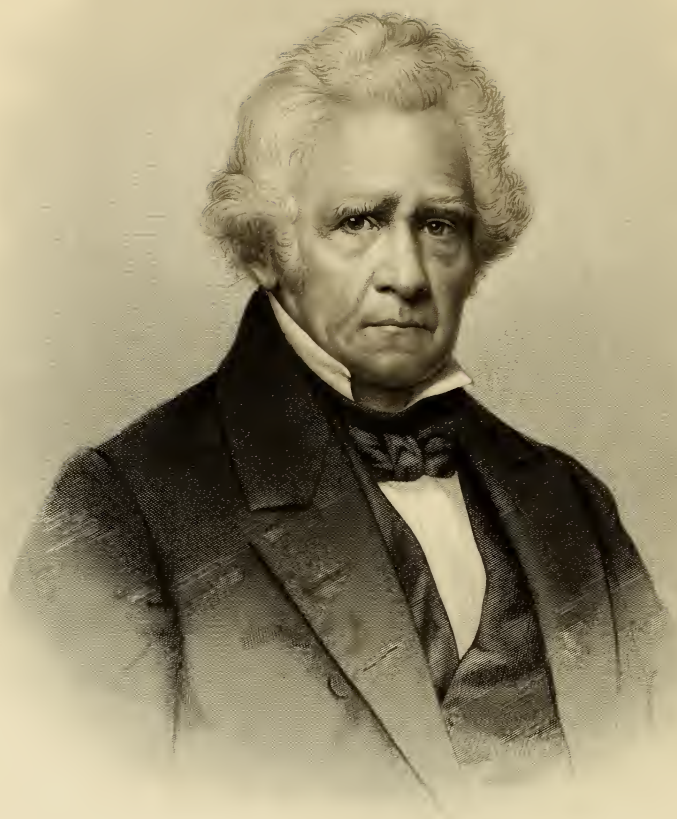
In 1812, Dr. Williams received from the Governor Daniel D. Tompkins, the appointment as Surgeon of the Second Regiment of Riflemen; war at that time existing between England and our own Government. A part of this regiment was detailed for service on the Niagara frontiers, and six companies were sent to Plattsburgh with an assistant Surgeon.

After the close of the war, Dr. Williams returned again to private practice, and joined the County Medical Society in 1816. Two years later, upon the recommendation of Major William J. Worth (afterwards Major General Worth), he was appointed by the Surgeon General, Dr. Lovell, Post Surgeon of the Cantonment at Greenbush, a position that he continued to fill with marked satisfaction until the garrison was abandoned in 1822, residing and pursuing meanwhile his private practice in the city.

Dr. Williams was President of the County Medical Society in 1828, having represented it in the State Medical Society of which he was elected permanent member the same year.

As a physician, Dr. Williams occupied a prominent position, and was strenuous to secure to his patients the bene-





Engraved by J. B. Kneller from the original

James Madison



fits accruing from a proper system of diet during their illness, a subject that had attracted less attention forty years ago than it has of late years. He was beloved by many of his patients, some of whom were men of distinguished positions in life. As a citizen and a man, his career was honorable and his character unblemished.

In 1845, after thirty-five years of active professional life, Dr. Williams withdrew from its cares, and took his residence in Alder Creek, Oneida county, where he at present resides in the enjoyment of reasonable health, in the 80th year of his age, and passing the evening of his life in a calm and dignified tranquillity.

The contemporaries of Dr. Williams were Stringer and Mancius, McClelland and Woodruff, Willard and Wendell, Townsend, Wm. Bay, T. Romeyn Beck and Joel A. Wing. With a single exception these have all closed useful and honorable lives. Bay and Williams remain like sturdy oaks where the forests have fallen. Their lives cover the period of our national government and they survive to witness the most trying period of its existence. May they once more see peace and prosperity in the land, and close their lives only to begin the joys of a better world.

### JAMES WADE.

James Wade was a son of James and Mary (Upham) Wade, and was born in West Springfield, Massachusetts, on the 5th day of June, 1789. His mother was the daughter of the Rev. Edward Upham. His father served as a soldier in the revolutionary war, and was present at the battle of Bunker Hill. James received a common school education, and some instruction in Latin. At the age of seventeen he had grown restless at home, and did what boys sometimes use to do, run away. He came to Albany, where he was obliged to rely on his own enterprise and industry; he therefore hired to a farmer and worked during the sum-

mer, and in the winter taught a common school. This business, in summer and winter he alternated for a number of years. Meanwhile he had made the acquaintance of Dr. Samuel McClearney of Schenectady, and began the study of medicine with him. He was licensed by the Schenectady County Medical Society on the 27th of November, 1812, but continued the occupation of teaching in the town of Watervliet until an epidemic sickness in the neighborhood made such a demand upon his service as to oblige him to relinquish his school. He then settled in Niskayuna, Schenectady county, where his knowledge and skill were to be put to the test.

It proved fortunate that the plan of treatment he adopted in typhoid pneumonia, many cases of which came under his care, was remarkably successful, and the reputation this acquired brought him at an early period into active life. So rapidly did business grow upon his hands that at the end of the first year he had not only made his living, paid several debts, but laid up from his earnings one thousand dollars. It was a large amount for those times, and speaks well for the good people among whom he lived, who paid their doctor so promptly. They deserve unmeasurable praise.

In 1829 Dr. Wade removed to the town of Watervliet, in Albany county, where he has ever since resided, and where for many years he was in the full tide of a large and lucrative practice, which extended in the adjoining counties of Schenectady and Saratoga, and embraced a large consultation business.

Dr. Wade received the degree of doctor of medicine from the Medical College at Castleton, Vermont, in 1836. He employed all possible time in reading, and is a man of general information not only in his profession but in political economy and government.

He continued in active life for forty-eight years until

1860, having been a useful and honored citizen. Of his children three sons survive: Dr. Ezekiel M. Wade, who succeeded his father and is now a physician in Watervliet; James Wade, Jr., a Lawyer in Cleveland, Ohio; and Edward Wade, Esq., a lawyer in Albany. Two brothers reside in Ohio: Edward Wade, member of Congress from 1852 to 1860; and the Hon. B. F. Wade, for many years United States Senator.

Dr. Wade survives at the age of seventy-five years in mental and physical health, and surrounded by the comforts that reward a life of industry.

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## BIOGRAPHIES OF MEMBERS DECEASED.

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### WILHELMUS MANCIUS.

In two of the New England states, as also in New Jersey, laws were enacted at an early period for the organization of medical societies. There were many evils that these laws were designed to suppress, and there was much good they were intended to incite. The evils were such as had grown since the early settlement of the country from the need of well educated students in medicine, and the low degree to which the art of healing had as a consequence fallen. There was no restriction to prevent the grossest imposition of pretenders in assuming the responsibilities that pertains to the care of the sick and the management of disease; and there was but little to aid the legitimate students in diligent research, and knowledge of true medical science. The laws which should therefore give distinctive features to the medical profession may be presumed to have found warm advocates in the physicians resident of the State Capitol, seeing, as they could do, the great necessity for its existence, and anxious as they doubtless were for

the establishment of some professional landmarks. The law creating a State and County Medical Societies was passed on the 4th day of April, 1806. It was planned and matured with the wisdom and far sightedness of those able and gifted statesmen, VAN NESS, CLINTON and KENT, who at that time were members of the legislature, in connection with the speaker of the assembly, Dr. ALEXANDER SHELDON, of Montgomery county, a gentleman of broad and liberal sentiments, occupying an honorable position in his profession, as also in the counsels of state. It is due to the memory of these men to say that after the lapse of nearly sixty years, the law stands with but a single amendment precisely as they originated it; exerting in its operation a powerful influence, through forty or fifty institutions, upon the profession through the entire state. In its comparison with similar laws in other states, judging by what it has accomplished, an enlightened opinion will award it the best, and it promises as much in the future as it has achieved in the present, for the good of the profession and the enlightened wisdom of its framers.

The first meeting for the organization of the Medical Society of the county of Albany took place on the first Tuesday in July, 1806, but it was adjourned to meet on the 29th instant for that purpose. The day arrived, and there assembled at the old City Hall, in the city of Albany, the following gentlemen: Wilhelmus Mancius, Hunloke, Woodruff, William McClelland, John G. Knauff, Caleb Gauff, Augustus Harris, Joseph W. Hageman, Cornelius Vrooman, Jr., Alexander G. Fonda, and Charles D. Townsend. The event was one of importance; it was to organize an institution which was to continue, they knew not how many years or through how many generations. By the precedence of years, the position of presiding officer fell upon Wilhelmus Mancius, a position that his venerable and dignified appearance was well suited to maintain. Dr.



Mancius was elected to assume the chair, and to announce the meeting ready for organization.

Wilhelmus Mancius was born in Ulster county, New York, in September, 1738. His father was George Wilhelmus Mancius, a native of Holland, who had emigrated to America and was a minister in the Reformed Dutch Church in America, and who combined with his gospel ministrations what was not then uncommon, some knowledge of the healing art, which he practiced among the people of his charge. Wilhelmus probably studied the classics under the care of his father, as he did also his medical profession. The Dutch language was his mother tongue, though he spoke the German fluently, and the English with at least a strong Dutch accent. He must have begun the study of medicine about the year 1758, when he was twenty years of age. It is impossible now to define just what might then have been regarded as a medical education; and in comparison with the present, a just estimate can scarcely be made. There were no medical schools in the country, and for a student in a retired town no possible facility for acquiring any practical knowledge of anatomy. A student could therefore have no adequate idea of the vital organs in health, or as changed by the process of disease. Diseases of the heart and lungs could not be distinguished by either auscultation or percussion. Nothing was known of the normal or diseased sounds of these organs. The pharmacy was as rude as the means of diagnosis. What might have been observed of the medicinal properties of a few indigenous plants comprised for the most part all that was available in the *materia medica*. To watch therefore the progress of disease, and to administer a few comparatively harmless remedies must have constituted the office of the physician; and he became skillful and renowned only as he exercised the shrewdness of observation, and made his experience his guide. Surgery was rude and sim-

ple. There was not the necessity for the high degree of surgical art that now exists. There were no terrible rail road disasters to mutilate human bodies, no steam engines to explode, or complicated machinery to tear into shreds and crush human limbs. And the art of war had not created implements of the present intense refinement of destruction and mutilation, which the healing and mechanical arts have come forth so nobly, with equal genius and skill to repair.

Dr. Mancius removed to Albany where he eventually enjoyed a large and remunerative practice. His office was on North Market street (now Broadway) near what is now the Delavan House. He was a man of social, genial nature, of eccentric habits, but withal agreeable in manners, and a possessor of a fund of good humor which gave him great popularity. In 1806, he had taken as partner Dr. Hunloke Woodruff, a gentleman of experience and learning, younger than himself. Dr. Mancius, by careful observation, had obtained considerable skill, and stood an oracle not to be disputed on medical topics. He frequently fell into discussion with his more learned and accomplished partner, in which he of course was the weaker party; but he habitually closed these arguments with an air of triumph, exclaiming "Ah de cure, Hunloke; de cure is de great ting—I cure!" His opinion of his partner's skill may be inferred. A mention of his business habits may be made as perhaps suited to the times, but which would scarcely add dignity to a member of our profession at this day. The doctor, it is said, attended many of the wealthy farmers surrounding the city, and never scrupled to draw liberally upon their well supplied stores. He was punctual to settle these accounts, but always found out first the amount of them before presenting his own bill. It was a strange circumstance that no matter how large the amounts were, "it was exactly the amount of his bill." Shoe bills, and others were settled

in the same manner. We are told that on one occasion, Richard Smith, a rich farmer, who had settled with the doctor in this way before, made out his bill : it was found on comparison that the doctor's "just matched it." He then recollected that he had omitted certain items which could not escape the doctor's memory when mentioned. The result was a balance in his favor, and the doctor promptly paid it over.

Dr. Mancius was in advanced years when the first meeting of the Society was held ; his career had embraced the period of the revolutionary war, and the institution, through him as its oldest member, now dates back a century and a quarter. He was never again present at the meetings, for his life terminated soon after on the 22d of October, 1808, at the age of seventy years. Dr. Mancius was a man of strong mind, and he left the impress of a favorable reputation that has survived the changes of more than half a century.

### HUNLOKE WOODRUFF.

Hunloke Woodruff was born in Elizabethtown, New Jersey, about the year 1755, and was a descendant by his maternal ancestry from Chancellor Hyde, afterwards Earl of Clarendon, famous in English politics about two centuries ago. His mother died in his infancy, and his father during his early childhood. He was cared for and educated by his grandfather, Joseph Woodruff, who about that time was the mayor of Elizabethtown, and who held the honored position of privy counselor to George the Third previous to the American revolution. Hunloke was graduated at Princeton college, New Jersey, about 1774, and having chosen the profession of medicine began his studies with Dr. Malachi Treat in the city of New York shortly previous to the commencement of the hostilities between the colonies and the mother country. Dr. Woodruff had taken up his residence

in Albany, but soon after this event he entered the army as surgeon of the Third New York Regiment, commanded by the gallant Colonel Peter Gansevoort of Albany, a position in which he served with distinguished ability both as physician and surgeon until the close of the war. Brought up as he had been by his grandfather, who held the high office of privy counselor, he had naturally been taught not only to honor but to reverence the king, and the influence of his education might naturally have led him to hold his loyalty to the crown. But he espoused the cause of the colonists from the first, and devoted himself through the long and weary struggle to the accomplishment of national independence. He accompanied the northern army to Canada, and was at the siege and taking of Fort St. John. He was with Col. Gansevoort during the whole siege of Fort Stanwix, and attended General Sullivan in his expedition against the hostile Indians of western New York.

As the army was proceeding toward Montreal, the doctor and an officer were marching together, when coming to a tree they passed it on opposite sides and were almost together again, when a cannon ball from the enemy whistled between them and struck the tree. Neither felt any extraordinary effect from the passage of the ball; and the circumstance the doctor used as a practical demonstration against the prevailing opinion that the passage of a cannon ball would by its windage cause the death of any person near to whom it might pass.

At the siege of Fort Stanwix, Captain Gregg and several others ventured beyond the lines of safety, and were surprised by Indians. Some of the party were scalped and left for dead. A faithful dog who had accompanied them licked the blood from his master's face, and then went to the fort and created an alarm which led to the discovery. Dr. Woodruff was one of the number who went from the fort in search of the party. Standing at length beside a body which he supposed dead, and whose visage was ob-



scured by masses of blood, he was startled by a low mournful voice, exclaiming, "Doctor, don't you know me?" The scalped and wounded man proved no other than his friend, Capt. Gregg, the owner of the dog. Dr. Woodruff took him to the fort, where with much care he recovered, and survived many years.

After the termination of the war Dr. Woodruff returned to Albany, and, becoming a partner with Dr. Mancius, he engaged extensively in practice and with great acceptance, both in Albany and the country and the villages surrounding it.

Dr. Woodruff was by birth and education a gentleman: he had in early life the advantages which social position and education confer. His talents were of a high order, his mind was refined and cultivated by learning, and by association with men in the higher ranks of life. His imagination was lively and his reasoning powers were sharp and philosophical. His knowledge of his profession, and his experience in surgery, by long military service, were equal to the first men of his time. His sympathies were warm and his impulses manly and generous. His money was valued only as it could lavish comforts upon his family and friends. His whole life was high toned and honorable, an ornament to his profession and a valued citizen.

In the last part of his life he was greatly afflicted with scrofulous diathesis, which gradually increased upon him until the period of his death, which finally took place from hemorrhage from the lungs on the 4th day of July, 1811, in the fifty-sixth year of his age.

An excellent likeness of Dr. Woodruff, by an Albany artist, Mr. Ames, is in possession of his family. A daughter of Dr. Woodruff married Dr. Samuel Freeman, now of Saratoga, and deceased in 1862.

## WILLIAM McCLELLAND.

William McClelland, was born in the Shire of Galloway in Scotland, in the year 1769. He received his medical education at Edinburgh, and immediately afterwards came to America, and began his professional career in Albany. His talents and his medical attainments secured for him a large practice, and his position in his profession was deservedly eminent. His early advantages had been better than this country at that time afforded, and hence the position that education controls was acceded to him by his colleagues. In matters pertaining to the advancement of his profession, Dr. McClelland took an active part, and as he was present at the first meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Albany so he continued his attendance with regularity until the close of his life. At the first meeting of the Medical Society of the State of New York in 1807, he was the delegate from Albany, and was elected the first President of that body. Among the pupils who sought his instruction was Theodric Romeyn Beck, who afterwards became one of the most distinguished medical scholars of the age.

In January, 1811, Dr. McClelland formed a business partnership with Dr. William Bay, who had a few months previously returned to Albany to reside; but his social habits had led him into an extreme of living, not uncommon in those days, and that tended to shorten his life. He died on the 29th of January, 1812, having just completed the forty-third year of his age. Dr. Bay still survives him, at the advanced age of ninety-one years.

## JOHN G. KNAUFF.

John G. Knauff was born in Germany. He was a physician and an apothecary, confining himself, however,

more exclusively to the duties of the latter. I am informed that he was a man of sound education; but being retiring and unsocial in his habits, he made few friends. He was the first Treasurer of the Society. In 1807, he read before it a paper on the "Revulsive effects of blood-letting;" and in 1808, one on "The use of *Hyosciamus Niger*." In 1809 he resigned his seat as member of the Society. His death occurred in 1810.

### CALEB GAUFF.

Caleb Gauff resided in the extreme south of the town of Bethlehem, where for many years he was a respectable practitioner. He is remembered by some of the old citizens of Bethlehem; but little definite information can be given concerning him. He was probably past the meridian of life when he met with this Society, and his career terminated at a period not distant from the time of its organization. It is now impossible to determine the place and period of his birth, or trace more fully his brief history.

### AUGUSTUS HARRIS.

Augustus Harris was born in the county of Rensselaer on the 17th day of July, 1776. He was the son of Dr. Nicholas Harris, with whom he pursued the study of medicine until he was licensed by the Hon. John Lansing, chief justice of the Supreme court of the state of New York, on the 4th day of August, 1800. He commenced practice in the town of Bethlehem, in Albany county, in 1803, where he remained for fourteen years, when he removed to Van Buren in Onondaga county, where he continued in the profession until 1821, when he turned his attention chiefly to the pursuit of agriculture. Dr. Harris was one of the original members of the County Medical

Society, and was present at its first meeting. He was then in his early manhood, full of strength and zeal, with life before him.

Half a century later, when in 1856 the Society advanced to its semi-centennial celebration, a retrospective glance of its history was taken, and a knowledge of those who first organized it was sought. It was found that Augustus Harris still survived, in the eighty-first year of his age. The feelings of his youth were revived as he thought of the event in which on account of "age and the infirmities attending, he could not venture so far from home," but he sent, in a clearly written letter, the assurance of his interests in the occasion. A few months later, on the fifth of April, 1857, the good old man slept with his fathers. He was attended in his last illness by Dr. Daniel T. Jones, of Baldwinsville, who a few years later was laid to rest in the same cemetery.

Dr. Harris passed the evening of his life in the enjoyment of every comfort, which had accrued as the reward of his industry. He was a man of genuine honesty and benevolence.

### JOSEPH W. HEGEMAN

Was a son of Joseph Hegeman, a wealthy gentleman who lived at Coenties slip in New York. Joseph was born and educated at Princeton, New Jersey, and there received his license to practice medicine. He was a friend of Dr. William Anderson, and removed with him to Schenectady where he was associated with him as a partner in business. He was a man of gentlemanly and courteous manners, and was esteemed a good practitioner. He married Sophia Anderson, a sister of his friend and partner, Dr. Anderson. About 1814 he removed to Cincinnati, and in 1827 to Vicksburgh, Mississippi, where he contin-



ued in practice with a relative of his wife. In 1832 he lost his three daughters, who died of cholera within twelve hours of each other. He died in 1837. The date of his birth is uncertain, but he was not far from sixty-five years of age at the time of his decease.

### CORNELIUS VROOMAN.

Cornelius Vrooman, Jr., was the second son of Simon Vrooman, a citizen of Schenectady, where he was born in 1781. His classical education was obtained at Union College, though his name does not appear on the catalogue as a graduate of that institution. He attended medical lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, and began the practice of his profession in his native city. He rapidly won the reputation of being a skillful physician — a reputation which still attaches to his memory.

Dr. Vrooman was over six feet in stature; his manners were easy and agreeable; his expression of countenance pleasant and lively; and he possessed fluency and versatility in conversation, well adapted to make him a popular man. He was uniformly kind hearted, and generous towards the poor. It is said of Dr. Vrooman, that with these virtues he was — unlike physicians of the present generation — quick tempered, but that the paroxysms were exceedingly brief. The sun shine is more cheerful after a cloud and a shower, and a man more amiable after the climax of a temporary vexation. He did not long continue in professional life, probably as much on account of the admonitions of health, as from having been appointed financier for a very wealthy citizen of Schenectady, for which his sterling integrity, and his business capacity alike fitted him. Dr. Vrooman passed away in his early manhood a victim of pulmonary disease. His death occurred in December, 1811, when he was at the age of thirty years.

## DR. CHARLES D. TOWNSEND.

Charles De Kay Townsend was the son of Absalom Townsend, and was born in Goshen, Orange county, New York, on the 20th of April, 1778. He was one of twelve children, having four brothers and seven sisters, who all lived to mature years. "The Townsend family, though residents of England for centuries, were originally from Normandy, and tradition says they accompanied William the Conqueror to the British Isle."

Charles commenced the study of medicine in Albany, under the supervision of Drs. Mancius and Woodruff, and attended the medical lectures at Columbia College in 1802. During the time of his residence in New York, he was also a pupil of the celebrated surgeon, Dr. Wright Post. He commenced practice in Rhinebeck, but removed to Albany in 1803. He was the first Secretary of the County Medical Society, and was successively elected to its various offices. In 1807 he read before it a paper on "Puerperal fever." He was elected permanent member of the Medical Society of the State of New York in 1815, and received, on its recommendation from the Regents of the University, the honorary degree of doctor of medicine in 1830.

For forty-five years, until near the period of his death, he was extensively engaged in practice, rendering alike service to the poor and the rich. He was a physician of the olden school, positive and unequivocal in his attachment to the theory and practice of medicine as taught at the beginning of the present century, unfaltering in his devotion to his profession, and heroic in its defence.

Previous to his death Dr. Townsend was afflicted with cataract, which so impaired his vision as to oblige him to relinquish the duties of his profession, and assume the position of patient. He submitted to an operation for the

removal of the disease which proved only partly successful. As a patient he displayed great fortitude and cheerfulness, and rigidly adhered to the directions of his medical attendants.

As a practitioner of medicine Dr. Townsend was esteemed prudent and skillful, and acquired the almost unlimited confidence of the public. His death occurred on the 17th of December, 1847, when he was in his seventieth year.

The following estimate of Dr. Townsend is from one, whose intimate relations with him afforded every opportunity to judge correctly of his character and virtues. "Industry, firmness, truthfulness, moral courage and Christian charity were blended in his character. Though possessing quickness of temper and fearlessness in the expression of his sentiments, he still possessed that nobleness of nature that when convinced of error manfully acknowledges it, and makes all reparation in its power. In the duties of his profession he would encourage and cheer his patients until all hope for them was gone, and so great was his spirit of hopefulness that it became almost proverbial, that when Dr. Townsend gave up there was indeed no hope. Then did he remember his duty as a Christian, make his suffering patients the subject of his private petition, and by prayer with them and Christian counsel point them to the Great Physician of Souls." And it was "with unshaken faith and confidence in his Saviour that he himself at length entered fearlessly the dark valley, and with

"Unfaltering trust approached his grave."

Dr. Townsend married Maria Fonda of Albany, December 10th, 1807, by whom he had seven children, four of whom survive. He is represented in the profession by one son, Dr. John F. Townsend of New York city, recently of Albany.

## WILLIAM ANDERSON

Was the second son of Isaac Anderson of Princeton, New Jersey, where he was born about the year 1771. He was educated at Princeton College, and studied medicine with the celebrated Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia, where he attended lectures and graduated in medicine. He took his residence in Schenectady where a large field of business opened before him, and where he enjoyed a high reputation for skill in surgery. He was emphatically a heroic practitioner and a heroic surgeon. It was a part of his character to be so; for as a man he was bold and dashing, with little care for anything, and very little anxiety for anybody. At one time he was a man of wealth; but disregarding money or its value, he exercised no prudence in the care of it, and made no provision for what he might need, except for time present. He often received large fees for his services, but never troubled his patients about paying him. He was in the sense of the world whole souled and generous to a fault, and sought to enjoy life as he went along in its swift current. On the 30th day of August, 1800, he married Elizabeth, a sister of Jacob G. Sanders, Esq., now of Albany. In the prospect of a more extensive field than Schenectady and its vicinity afforded he went to New Orleans with a view to establish his residence; but on a return passage to New York he was seized with yellow fever and died on the 30th day of August, 1811, and his body was committed to the ocean. Dr. Anderson left no children. At the time the Medical Society was organized, Schenectady was within the limits of Albany county, and thus Dr. Anderson was brought into relation with it at the time of its organization. It speaks for his enterprise and for that of his associates, that they came so far to attend its first meeting, for Schenectady was at that time nearly a day's travel from Albany.



An older brother, Dr. James Anderson, also practiced in Schenectady; but he died suddenly at Cherry Hill near Albany, where he was buried in 1805. He was a well read, accomplished and attractive gentleman.

### ELIAS WILLARD.

Dr. Elias Willard occupied a conspicuous position as a physician and surgeon among the medical men of Albany at the beginning of the present century. He was the second son of Lemuel Willard of Harvard, Massachusetts, and descended in the fifth generation from Major Simon Willard, the common ancestor of the family in America, and who came from the county of Kent in England in 1634, and settled in Massachusetts. Major Willard is distinguished in the history of Massachusetts as rendering important public service to the colony as representative in its councils, as comptroller, judge, commissioner and military commander. He was a man of sound understanding, fine judgment and practical skill, conscientious, devout, and thoroughly in earnest both in word and work, giving by his sagacity and wisdom protection to the infant colony, and imparting strength and vigor to its government.

Lemuel Willard, the father of Elias, sustained a good reputation as a useful, respected, public spirited citizen. Elias was born in Harvard, on the 7th of January, 1756. He early gave attention to study and expressed a strong desire to receive a collegiate education, which his father, in justice to his other sons, was unable to afford him; but he was placed under private instruction, and made considerable progress in acquiring the Latin and Greek languages. At the age of eighteen years he commenced the study of medicine, which he was pursuing when the war broke out which separated the colonies from Great Britain. The

father, an elder brother, and Elias obeyed the first call for troops, and left home on the eighteenth of April, 1775, for Cambridge, where the army was collecting. Early the next day they pressed forward to Lexington, and shared in the country's first bloody struggle for liberty in the battle of the 19th April.

After a brief service as a common soldier, he applied to the provincial congress for the position of assistant surgeon, and meantime tendered his services as a volunteer in the hospital at Roxbury under the charge of Dr. Samuel Hayward. In order for a greater protection from diseases of the camp Dr. Hayward and young Willard decided to receive small pox by inoculation, and they accordingly went into a lonely seclusion until the danger from it was past. After his recovery, wishing to study more closely than he could do in a hospital, he placed himself under the tuition of Dr. Joseph Gardner of Boston, and there remained until the hospital was established in New York, when he became the assistant of Dr. John Warren, a brother of the lamented patriot, General (and doctor) Joseph Warren, who fell at Bunker Hill. He was subsequently in the early part of 1777 transferred as junior surgeon to a hospital in Boston.

In 1777, at the age of twenty-one years, he received the appointment of surgeon to a regiment from the province of Maine, commanded by Colonel Frost, which was brought into active service by its removal to White Plains, in this state. He was successively removed with the army to German Flats and Ticonderoga. He was invited by General Lincoln to become a member of his staff, but he had suffered so much from the cold during the winter that he accomplished his desire to return to hospital duty, where he remained until the close of the war.

In July, 1780, he married Catharine, daughter of John Livingston, Esq., whose mother was a sister of General

Abram Ten Broeck of the revolutionary army and mayor of Albany in 1796.

After the close of his military service, in which time he had added largely to his professional experience and skill, but nothing to his purse, he removed in 1785 to Stillwater in Saratoga county, where he entered into a large practice, residing on Bemis Heights, the battle ground near Saratoga. A few years later he visited Montreal and Quebec with a view to a change in his residence, but the manners and customs of the province were not his own, and the process of assimilation with them was not an easy one, and after one year he returned again to Stillwater. He removed to Albany in 1801, and for a period of twenty-five years, was actively and extensively engaged in his professional duties. He united with the Medical Society at the period of its organization.

In 1811 the Society demanded of Dr. Willard the components of a certain remedy he used in cancer. For some reason (and it is probable that he was not as yet himself fully satisfied as to its positive virtues), he did not promptly comply with the demand, and the Society passed a resolution by which he was expelled.

This act, however, did not lessen him in public estimation, and the Medical Society of Massachusetts elected him to honorary membership in 1814, an evidence of the esteem and undiminished confidence in which he was held by the medical profession of his native state.

He died in this city on the 20th March, 1827, in the seventy-first year of his age, having been more than fifty-one years in professional life. His wife died on the 20th January, 1827. Delightfully associated in life, they were not separated by death.

Although it is now a considerable more than a third of a century since Dr. Willard terminated his career, yet his name remains familiar to the present generation as a man

of high rank in his profession. Dr. Willard's character had developed, amid the trying scenes of the American revolution, and in those scenes he had learned great practical lessons and they gave complexion to his life. They had taught him skill in his profession by a stern and painful experience; they had taught him patience, diligence and forbearance. Suffering with his country, gave him for it an enthusiastic love and a devoted patriotism. His manners were agreeable and courteous, and his deportment at all times consistent and dignified, and in later years his appearance was not only prepossessing but impressive and venerable. The distinguishing traits of his character were his devotion to his profession and his ardent piety. His religious convictions were clear and enlightened; he had been early impressed with the truth of religion, and his long life was that of a consistent and exemplary Christian, while his position was one of influence in the church as well as in the profession.

He inherited energy of character and possessed a mind calm, well balanced and harmonious in its action. With great industry he united a disposition to do good to all around him. Dr. Willard left two sons and eight daughters, and has been represented in the profession in this city by two grandsons, Dr. Edward Willard Ford, and Dr. John H. Trotter.

Dr. Moses Willard was a younger brother of Elias, and was born in Harvard, Sept. 19, 1760. He studied medicine in Boston with Dr. Hayward, and probably with Dr. Warren also, and entered the military service in 1782 as assistant surgeon in Colonel Willet's regiment, where he served until the close of the war. He afterwards commenced practice in Massachusetts, but removed to Lansingburgh and subsequently to Albany, where he resided several years. His position was prominent in his profession; he was an occasional contributor to the *New York*



*Medical and Physical Journal.* In 1808 he was elected an honorary member of the Medical Society of the State of New York. He removed to New York in 1821, where he engaged in practice, and was elected Fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He died December 6th, 1826, at the age of sixty-six years.

### AUGUSTUS FITZ RANDOLPH TAYLOR

Was the fourth son of John Taylor, Professor of Mathematics in Union College, and who died of yellow fever in 1800. Augustus was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in the month of March, 1783. He was educated under the vigilant eye of his father, and graduated at Union College the year of his father's death. Although he was graduated before the completion of his eighteenth year, his limited resources had obliged him to devote a part of his time to the instruction of pupils who were preparing for college; but notwithstanding so great a tax upon his hours of study, he received the highest honors of his class.

The same year he went to New Brunswick, and commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Moses Scott, an eminent practitioner of that city. He afterwards became a pupil of Dr. Benjamin Rush, and spent two winters in his office; and, like all the students of that distinguished teacher, acquired for him a love and veneration lasting as life. He received his diploma in medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1804, submitting on that occasion a thesis on insanity.

Dr. Rush reciprocated the attachment of young Taylor, and presented him with a pocket case, containing six lancets with pearl handles. This useful gift Dr. Taylor carried with him through his whole life, and they are now held by his son, and highly prized, in evidence of so honored a friendship.

Dr. Taylor returned to New Brunswick and commenced practice, but a large circle of influential friends prevailed upon him to locate in Schenectady, and it was at the second meeting of this Society, in 1806, that he became one of its members.

In 1810, he was induced to return to his native city, where he acquired an extensive practice both in medicine and surgery; but it was in midwifery, however, that he seems to have gained his greatest popularity. His cases for several years amounted to two hundred and fifty per annum, and in 1818 to three hundred; a remarkable number for one engaged in private practice only. It may be inferred that however strong his inclinations, he must have had very little leisure to devote to literary pursuits. He managed to keep a case-book, but it was only for private reference and an aid to his memory.

He was several times President of the Medical Society of the County of Somerset, and in 1824 was elected President of the Medical Society of the State of New Jersey; an institution organized in 1766. He was afterwards re-elected to the same office.

He was repeatedly elected to civil offices, and was for a time mayor of the city of New Brunswick. At the period of his death he was a member of the legislature of New Jersey.

Dr. Taylor had a good knowledge of anatomy; he observed symptoms and their phases with great accuracy, and had considerable facility in forming a correct estimate of the nature and extent of diseases. In later years his business changed, and he was mostly employed as consulting physician in the city and its vicinities, over which his practice had in previous years very generally extended. So great was his reputation, that the old settlers, and many others whom he had at some time attended, were unwilling to die or even recover from a severe illness until he had been called in counsel.

Dr. Taylor's manners were mild and unpretending; his disposition was naturally amiable. He was averse to pretension or affectation in either the rich or the poor, and he was sincere and cordial in his intercourse with everybody. In appearance he was above medium height, quick in his movements, with a ruddy complexion, a large, full, hazel eye, heavy brows, a square, full forehead; a well shaped mouth, and a perfect set of teeth. There was a shade of care in his countenance; but in conversation it lighted up and became expressive of his natural cheerfulness. His dress was plain and remarkably neat. He was liberal to a fault, and sometimes generous in declining to receive pay for his services where he thought it could not be afforded, to the injury of the profession, and not unfrequently to the annoyance of being imposed upon himself, by those who would escape paying a physician.

For many years he was in the habit of engaging in prayer before commencing his daily professional duties; he united with the Presbyterian church a short time before his death. In the month of March, 1841, he had an attack of apoplexy and paralysis, from which he partially recovered, but it recurred, and he died on the 16th August following, at the age of fifty-eight years.

His son, Dr. Augustus F. Taylor, is still a practitioner in New Brunswick, and his brother, the venerable Dr. John Taylor, resided in Lansingburgh.

### PETER WENDELL.

Peter Wendell was descended from Evert Janson Wendell, one of the early families from Holland, and was born in Albany on the 3d day of June, 1786. Here he obtained his early and classical education, and pursued the study of medicine under the instruction of Dr. William McClelland. He attended two courses of lectures at the University of

Pennsylvania and became an enthusiastic admirer of that distinguished patriot and physician, Dr. Benjamin Rush, whose views he embraced and whose teachings became the guide of his practice in after years.

Having graduated at Philadelphia he returned to Albany in the spring of 1807, and at once united with the Medical Society which had only recently been organized. He commenced his professional career under auspicious circumstances. There were but a few practitioners of eminence in the city and they were all advanced beyond the meridian of life, while he was surrounded by a large circle of influential friends who gave him their encouragement. He was prompt in his business and attentive to his patients, and he rapidly won reputation, and a large and lucrative practice.

Dr. Wendell was at an early period elected by this Society a delegate to the State Medical Society, where he was in a few years elected permanent member, and for a long time filled the office of Censor in that Society for this district. In 1813 he read a dissertation before the Society on the stimulant effects of cold. In 1823 he was elected by the legislature, Regent of the University of the State of New York, and was faithful and attentive to the great variety of business that came before that board, making himself familiar with all its details, devoting much care and attention to the state library and the cabinet of natural history. He at length became, with a single exception, senior member of the board and was elected chancellor of the Regents of the University in 1842. This honorable position he continued to occupy until the close of his life. It was a position which brought him into relations with most of the leading men of the state, and he well sustained the dignity of the office.

Dr. Wendell felt the important and responsible relation of the medical profession to the public, and he always



sought to promote the interests of the profession and to inculcate for it a proper respect. After a practice of forty-two years, Dr. Wendell died suddenly of disease of the heart, on the 31st of October, 1849, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. An excellent portrait of him has its proper place in the state library. Dr. Wendell has been represented in the profession by one son, who for several years was a practitioner in Albany, Dr. Herman Wendell, but who is now retired from professional life, and a son-in-law, Dr. S. Oakley Vanderpoel, late surgeon general of the state.

#### CHARLES DEKAY COOPER

Was the fourth of ten sons of Dr. Ananias Cooper, and was born in Rhinebeck, Dutchess county, in this state, in the year 1769. His ancestors were among the early emigrants from England to Massachusetts, mention having been made of them as early as 1634. His father was a practicing physician in Rhinebeck, and an active whig during the revolution.

Dr. Cooper commenced the study of his profession under the direction of his father, and was afterwards a student of Dr. Crosby, in New York city.

His favorite study was anatomy, and he made several anatomical preparations. He had likewise a taste for surgery, but there is only the account of one minor operation preserved.

Dr. Cooper came to Albany in 1792. Two years afterwards he was appointed by Gov. George Clinton and the Council of Appointment, health officer to the port of Albany. The yellow fever was at that time raging in New York, and a quarantine was accordingly established four miles below this city, and for a length of time "vessels having on board, or suspected of having on board, any per-

son or persons infected with any infectious distemper," were detained at that point.

Dr. Cooper became a member of this Society in 1808. Whatever might have been his attachment to his profession, he did not long continue in professional life, but entered the arena of politics, indeed as early as 1804 "he was warmly engaged as an active partisan in the electioneering campaign between Burr and Lewis."\*

In 1806 he had been appointed judge of the county courts, and in 1808 he succeeded Richard Lush as clerk of the county, and was re-appointed to this office in 1809, 1811, 1812 and 1815.

He occupied from time to time other political offices, and among them was that of Indian agent. From the Indians of Oneida and Onondaga Castle, to whom he was commissioned with moneys to pay their yearly annuities from the state, he received the name, "Tight Blanket," because he held the money as securely as they did their blanket.

In 1817 he was appointed by Lieutenant Gov. Tayler and the Council of Appointment, who came into executive authority, on the resignation of Governor Tompkins, secretary of state.

Dr. Cooper was a man of great physical force and power of endurance. He was well skilled in the art of fencing, and so quick in his movements that he could seize a designated pigeon in the street before it could rise from the ground, a feat that he has often performed. He excelled in the athletic sports, and could run with remarkable speed. It is said of his brother, Capt. William Cooper, that he could run half a mile and return quicker than any horse.

Dr. Cooper died suddenly on the 31st of January, 1831, in the sixty-third year of his age.

Says that distinguished political historian, Hon. Jabez

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\* Hammond's Political History of New York, vol. I, page 211.

D. Hammond, of Dr. Cooper, "I knew him long and well as a remarkably correct man, and a man of integrity and honor."\*

Dr. Cooper married the adopted daughter of Governor Taylor by whom he had three sons; one of whom is Major General John Tayler Cooper, of Albany, a graduate of Union College in 1818. Another, Rev. Charles D. Cooper, an Episcopal clergyman in Philadelphia.

### JAMES LOW.

Among the list of distinguished physicians in Thacher's *American Medical Biography* is the name of James Low. The notice was written by his friend Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, and is as follows:

"James Low, M. D., was born at Albany, December 9th, 1781. His early education was completed at Union College in 1802. He commenced the study of medicine with Dr. McClelland, and after three years spent with him, he went to Edinburgh, where he spent four years, attending the lectures of the University. During a part of the time he was a private pupil of Dr. John Murray, late eminent lecturer on chemistry. Dr. Low's standing among his fellow students, may be estimated from the fact that he was elected one of the Presidents of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh. Dr. Low traveled in England and Scotland, and returned to his native city in 1808, and commenced practice with Dr. McClelland." He then became a member of this Society.

"His reputation as a learned and skillful physician, an able and expert surgeon, became widely diffused. He was a man of science."

His health during the last three years of his life became greatly impaired, and after much suffering he died in Al-

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\* Vol. I, page 440.

bany, February 3d, 1822, having just completed the fortieth year of his age.

His published works are :

1. Dissertation Inauguralis de Tetano, 1807.
2. Epidemic Pneumonia.
3. Researches on the Light manifested in the Combustion of Inflammable Substances.
4. Observations on Moth, which prove destructive to bees.
5. Hooper's Vade Mecum (with notes).
6. Notes to Bell on Venereal Diseases.

"His loss to Society was great. He bid fair at one time to become one of the first physicians in the state. He lectured during several years on chemistry, with great acceptance, showing familiarity with that subject. He was well versed in the languages, enthusiastic in poetry, and a man of extensive and varied learning."

He frequently read papers before this Society, among which was one on cancer, one on hydatids, and one on paralysis of the bladder.

Considering the time he spent abroad, at home in practice, and that he died in his early manhood; his industry and the fertility of his pen are remarkable.

### ARCHIBALD HAMILTON ADAMS,

Whose name is enrolled as a member of the society in 1808, was a son of Dr. William Adams, who came to this country from Ireland, just before the close of the last century, and died in Maryland, at the advanced age of one hundred and three years. His son, who accompanied him, had completed his medical education, probably at the University of Edinburgh,\* for he presented to Dr. Henry Adams, of

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\* In 1857, I made a visit to Dr. Adams of Cohoes, in order to satisfy myself on this point. He was unable to recollect whether Dr. A. H. Adams was born in Ireland or America, but assured me that he had his manuscript notes above mentioned. He was confined to his bed by a lingering illness, and was so feeble that my interview with him was necessarily brief.



Cohoes, when his student, in 1803, his manuscript notes from the lectures of Dr. Duncan, professor of theory and practice of medicine, taken while he was a student at the University, in 1786.

Dr. Adams settled in Schenectady, and as was usual with the educated physicians of that day, a large number of students flocked to his instructions, and among these were Dr. Thomas Dunlap and Dr. A. G. Fonda, of Schenectady, Dr. John Tonilier, of New York city, Dr. Van Dyck, of Schoharie, and Dr. Adams. Dr. Adams acquired considerable reputation as a surgeon, and his practice extended many miles to the north and west.

Dr. Adams was a man of spare frame, and in his appearance, is said to have borne a marked resemblance to Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia.

In one of his limbs he was lame, the consequence of an attack of rheumatism, so that he always walked with a cane. His manners were remarkably pleasant and urbane. He had the faculty of communicating his knowledge, and took special interest in instructing his pupils. He seldom prepared a remedy until he had first written the prescription, which was always done in Latin. He was kind and benevolent in his disposition, and is said to have exercised great liberality towards the poor, often discharging them from their legal obligations to him, when he was satisfied that they could not make payment, without sacrifice of personal comforts, and this he did with a freedom and sincerity that evinced the genuineness of his motives.

It is more than intimated that he had—as most men have—a failing; his was a great fondness for the weed. When his labors for the day were over, he often retired, with his long Holland pipe, the bowl resting upon the candlestick, which was placed upon a stand by his bed, and with the other end in his mouth, he regaled himself until, amid the perfumed clouds of smoke, he was lost in balmy sleep.

Dr. Adams was an agreeable companion ; although not a professor of religion, he was regular in his attendance upon the services of the sanctuary, and sustained an unblemished moral reputation. He died in 1811, at the age of forty-two years. Those who were associated with Dr. Adams speak in high praise of his excellence, as a physician, his skill as a surgeon, and his virtues as a man.

### ISAAC HYDE.

Isaac Hyde was born in Canterbury, Connecticut, in the year 1773. He was the son of Isaac and Sarah (Marshall) Hyde, the ancestry of his mother residing in Windsor, Conn. He fitted for college at Stanfield Academy, but became a pupil in medicine with Dr. Jonathan Hall of Pomfret in the same state. At the age of eighteen years he concluded his pupilage with Dr. Carter of Newport, Rhode Island. After one year in practice he made a journey to England ; on the return voyage the vessel was wrecked and he arrived in New York in destitute circumstances. While in New York he met a gentleman from Rensselaerville, Albany county, who represented to him the need of a physician in that place. Dr. Hyde accordingly went to Rensselaerville, where he continued to reside until the period of his death. Dr. Hyde became a member of the Albany County Medical Society in 1808, though from the distance of his residence, and his constant occupation, he seldom met with the society.

Dr. Hyde was an energetic and public spirited citizen, seeking at all times the benefit of the people among whom he lived. The poor were liberally and generously fed from his larder, and supplied from his granaries ; the indigent were assisted and encouraged. He was a man of clear mind and of vigorous constitution, and in the practice of his profession in a new and sparsely settled country, the demands upon his powers of endurance were very great.

He pursued the even tenor of his way through snow drifts and over rough roads as the case might be, by night or by day, feeling his personal responsibility for the welfare of his patients, and at all times laboring to acquit himself faithfully towards them. His conversation with his patients was cheerful and encouraging, and his visits were hailed with pleasure by the young, and with satisfaction by those of mature life. He possessed considerable skill in surgery, and performed very many operations incident to his practice in his own and adjoining towns.

Dr. Hyde seemed not only to share the confidence of the people among whom he lived, but was beloved by them. His house was the abode of hospitality to those who came from a distance to consult him, to the stranger, and to the ministers of the gospel, who sometimes held services there when there was no church. He was interested in the cause of education, and sought to secure its advantages to the generation rising about him. He was looked to by the community as a disinterested and generous friend, whose better judgment was frequently sought and followed. His manners were plain and simple, his habits industrious and frugal, while his mild eye and calm expression made one feel himself in the presence of a friend.

Dr. Hyde usually had two or three students under his care and instruction, among whom was his successor Dr. Platt Wicks of Rensselaerville, and his son Dr. Lucius Hyde who resided and recently died in the city of Brooklyn.

Dr. Hyde died of dropsical effusion within the cavity of the thorax, on the 9th day of July, 1833, at the age of sixty-one years.

His record is of a life of great usefulness among those whom he lived, and his name is still held in honored remembrance by many whose happiness and virtue he promoted.



He was the agent for the late patroon and largely enjoyed his confidence, and during one of his illnesses was one of his medical counsel.

Lucius Hyde, a son, was born in Rensselaerville, Albany county, on the 13th day of December, 1800. In childhood he had before him the industry and enterprise of his father, the gentleness and affection of a mother who was a woman of simple piety belonging to the society of the Friends, whose example and training were not lost on her son. He graduated at Union College with high honors, and soon began the study of medicine under the direction of his father. He received his degree of doctor of medicine, and removed to the city of Brooklyn in 1825, which at that time was no more than a small village.

Dr. Hyde was actively engaged in the practice of his profession for a period of twenty-eight years. In 1853 he became incapacitated by disease, which at length took on the form of paralysis from which he suffered at intervals with great severity until the period of his death, which occurred on the 11th of September, 1863. At the time of his decease he was the oldest physician in Brooklyn, which had increased full 270,000 people during his residence in it.

Dr. Hyde possessed in a high degree most of the qualities essential to a good physician. He united firmness and gentleness with courage and self-reliance, sobriety of judgment and a calm self-possession, with sagacity of discernment, and honesty of expression. His relation to his patient was that of a friend, and devoid of the coldness of a strictly professional man. He was swayed by neither ambition for fame nor ambition for money, and in the latter respect was scarcely just to himself. He was a man of a large and generous temper, with the utmost regard for the feelings of others, delighting to extol the good in them, and desirous of extenuating as far as possible



their mistakes and errors. His mind was likewise unusually free from prejudice. During the slow decay that came upon his body and mind, he bore the affliction with great fortitude and patience. And "through which he exercised a childlike submission, faith, and piety, which showed where he had placed his trust."

### SIMON VEEDER.

Simon Veeder was a native of Albany, having been born in the city in May, 1788. He studied medicine with Drs. Lowe and McClelland, and went to Philadelphia in 1807 with Peter Wendell and Jacob Lansing Van Dusen to attend medical lectures, and was a licentiate of the Medical Society of the County of Albany on the 18th of July, 1807. He was the first student licensed by the Society, and the record is that he honorably acquitted himself and gave ample testimony of his medical knowledge. He removed to Charlton, in the county of Saratoga, where he practiced his profession for two years, and afterwards resided in Schenectady until his death which occurred in May, 1860, at the age of seventy-two years.

Dr. Veeder inherited a handsome estate from his father which precluded the necessity of hard labor incidental to professional life, but it did not prove an abiding fortune. He was a man amiable in his disposition, warm in his attachments, but lacked energy of character.

### JONATHAN EIGHTS.

Jonathan Eights was the son of Abraham Eights, a prominent citizen of Albany, usually known as Father Eights; a man of ardent piety, and strongly attached to the Presbyterian church in which for many years he was an active and leading member, and who died in 1820, at the

age of seventy-five years. His grandfather was Abraham Eights, a ship master of New York, and his great grandparents were William Eights of Amsterdam and Mary Van Dyck of Rotterdam, in Holland.

Jonathan was born in Albany, on the 26th of November, 1773, and obtained his classical education here, under the instruction of the late George Merchant. In the year 1790 he commenced the study of medicine in the office of Drs. Mancius and Woodruff, with whom he remained until April, 1795.

He was then examined by two physicians, and received their certificate of his competency to practice. This certificate was filed in the office of the clerk of the county. The first few months of his professional life he spent in one of the small towns adjoining the city. "A severe bilious remittent and intermittent fever, which was raging there with great violence," determined him upon this course. After the disease subsided, he removed to Canajoharie, in Montgomery county, where he remained until 1797, when he went to Philadelphia, and spent nearly a year, with a view to improving himself in surgery. He returned to Montgomery county, and became engaged in an extensive and laborous practice. On the 1st of May, 1810, he removed to Albany, and without delay united with this Society, to whose interests he continued warmly attached through his whole life.

He soon acquired a varied and extensive practice, and devoted his whole energy exclusively to it.

In 1822 and '23, he was one of the associate contributors to the *Medical and Physical Journal*, published in New York. "An account of two cases of neuralgia," and one case of "Carcenoma of the uterus," are among his contributions. He received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the Regents of the University in 1827.

In 1830 and '31, he was President of the State Medical

Society, having several years before represented this Society as delegate. The subject of his first annual address before that body was "Vaccination," and of the second, "Puerperal fever." At the conclusion of the former, he paid a just and eloquent tribute to the memory of his friend, the late Dr. Alexander Coventry of Utica, then recently deceased, and who was an Ex-president of the society.

Says the reviewer of the address on puerperal fever, "this interesting and important subject is discussed by him in a very able and judicious manner. Dr. Eights is evidently a clear and accurate thinker, and his style is concise, and bears evidence of considerable practical judgment."

He was President of this Society in 1814, '15 and '16, and was again reelected in 1841, and upon this occasion read before it an address on the subject of "Phlegmasia dolens."

Dr. Eights was well versed in medical literature, and accumulated a large and well selected library. His published cases were narrated with great clearness and brevity, but his almost constant professional engagements and his love of reading gave him at first but little time for writing, and this was at length succeeded by an habitual disinclination to record his valuable observations.

He was strongly attached to the profession and for many years exerted a leading influence among its members. In the every day duties of professional life he was characterized by a plodding industry and attention to the care of his patients. His business became very large and absorbed almost every other consideration. He was a man of energy, of strong will, and positive opinions, which to the younger members of the profession seemed at times to be almost arbitrary.

Dr. Eights was a general practitioner, and it was as a



family physician that he held in highest esteem ; his personage was large and impressiv , his manners quick and dignified, his scrutiny rigid and severe. Like his father he was decided on his preference to the Presbyterian church, leading an exemplary Christian life ; he lived and died in its communion. He died on the 10th of August, 1848, in the 75th year of his age, having spent fifty-three years in professional life, and being at the time the oldest practitioner in Albany. A monument is erected to his memory in the Albany Rural Cemetery.

One son, James Eights, Esq., survives him ; a man of large scientific attainments.

### JOHN STEARNS.

There are few names in the Annals of American Medical Biography deserving of more honorable mention than that of John Stearns. Not that his achievements in his profession were either bold or brilliant, but that through a long life he devoted himself with unwearied assiduity to the care of the sick, and to advancing the interests, and contributing to the science of a noble profession. His eminent position among men distinguished in professional life was not suddenly thrust upon him, but gained as the reward of unceasing application in the work to which his life was set apart.

John Stearns was born in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, on the 16th day of May, 1770. He was early fitted for college, and was graduated at Yale with distinguished honor in 1789. His medical studies were prosecuted with Dr. Erastus Sergeant of Stockbridge until 1792, when he went to Philadelphia and attended the lectures of Shippen, Wistar, Rush, and others at the University. The year following, in 1793, he entered upon practice, near Waterford in the county of Saratoga, New York, where in 1797 he married a daughter of Colonel Hezekiah Ketchum.



Dr. Stearns pursued the ordinary duties of his profession with success, and more than this, the energies of a vigorous mind, and the sympathies of a generous heart were cordially enlisted to elevate the dignity, and extend the usefulness of his profession, to incite vigorous measures for a radical reform among its members, and to relieve it from the odium of ignorance and empiricism. He believed, and well, that as the public mind became enlightened, it would abstain from the dangers of charlatantry. A series of newspaper articles appeared in Saratoga, relative to the importance of establishing Medical Societies, and a society was instituted in the county of Saratoga, about the year 1800, but it was composed of discordant materials for a scientific body, and was ultimately dissolved.

In November, 1805, a meeting was held at Ballston inviting the coöperation of the physicians of the adjoining counties of Washington and Montgomery, and a printed circular was issued calling the attention of the profession to the importance of legislation on the subject. The leading spirit in this enterprise was John Stearns of Saratoga. Associated with him were William Patrick and Grant Powell. The meeting was adjourned to January 16th, 1806, when the friends of the measure met and memorialized the legislature, for the establishment of a medical society. The memorial did not at first contemplate that it should embrace more than the three counties of Saratoga, Montgomery, and Washington. Fortunately for the cause of science, Dr. Alexander Sheldon of Montgomery was elected speaker of the assembly in 1806. The memorial was referred to a committee of the house, a majority of which were medical men, who upon examining the subject became at once in favor of making a general law for the whole state. A bill was matured and presented to the house, and strange to record, it met with a powerful opposition, and feeble hopes were entertained of its success.

The bill had been wisely framed, and at the critical juncture of its final passage, the honorable William W. Van Ness became its most eloquent and powerful advocate. In a speech of remarkable parliamentary eloquence he refuted the arguments of the opposition to the bill, and portrayed its benefits with such zeal and energy, that its success became certain. The law was enacted April 4, 1806. To this new institution THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, whose inception was received from John Stearns, it would be almost needless to add that he gave it his future influence. He was elected its Secretary at the first meeting in 1807, and continued to fill the office for several years. In 1807, Dr. Stearns communicated to the profession through Dr. Ackerly, in an article published in the eleventh volume of the *New York Medical Repository*, his observations on the medical properties of ergot in facilitating parturition. Whatever may have been known of this substance before, Dr. Stearns was the first to elicit attention to it, in the United States, and his observations were doubtless original.

In 1809, he was elected to the senate of the state of New York, and served as senator for four years until 1813. He removed to Albany in 1810, and for nine years was actively engaged in practice, enjoying largely the public confidence. The Regents of the University conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1812. In 1817, he was elected President of the Medical Society of the State of New York, and was deservedly reëlected in 1818, 1819, and 1820. No other person has for so many years occupied this distinguished position. On the anniversary of each election, he delivered the annual address, except on the last, when he was detained from being present, and it was communicated through a friend. The subject of each presents an entirely different range of thought, and evinces a mind familiar with the learning of his profession.

In 1819 Dr. Stearns removed to New York, where for

many years he adorned the profession, and contributed largely to the medical periodicals of the day. Upon the organization of the New York Academy of Medicine in 1846, it was appropriate that its first President should be a man distinguished for honorable position, for liberality of sentiments, for devoted love to the profession, for consistency, uprightness, and purity of character. The selection might properly have been made from such men as Cook or Francis, or John B. Beck, but the mantle of office fell upon John Stearns, then venerable in professional life. In his address before the Academy on its final anniversary he enjoins upon its members "That no impostor obtain admission within its sacred walls. Let the inscriptions of your portals be *esto perpetua*; remember it is consecrated to health, to happiness, and to harmony, which I trust will always be its prominent characteristics, and may it be the nursery of thousands and tens of thousands, and rise like the sun in all its meridian glory to shed its scientific rays over the whole world." At the close of the address he says: "Could I be assured of the uninterrupted, enduring prosperity of the Academy, in disseminating health, happiness and sustaining principles of life, I should die in peace with effusions of gratitude and praise to Almighty God for his permanent blessings upon our labors."

A little more than one year later, on the 18th of March, 1848, Dr. Stearns died a martyr to the profession in which he had so long lived. His life was the last offering that he could lay upon its altars. His death occurring as the result of a poisoned wound. He was in the 79th year of his age. His private life was adorned by the virtues of Christianity. Several years since, in leaving St. George's church, New York, my eye rested gratefully on a tablet near the entrance, on which was inscribed the name of John Stearns.



## THEODRIC ROMEYN BECK.

By MRS. CATHERINE E. VAN CORTLANDT.

It is with extreme diffidence that the writer approaches the biography of Theodric Romeyn Beck. Every man has a twofold life, and the life known to the indwellers of his home differs much from that known to the public. Therefore it may be that the following sketch will in some measure be drawn by the light in which his character appeared to those who knew and loved him best, and not be as recognizable as the various short biographies written of him by comparative strangers. Should it be thought too partial, surely the fault will be pardoned when the relation between the man and his biographer is remembered.

Dr. Beck was the eldest son of Caleb Beck and Catherine Theresa Romeyn. A brief notice of her life and the influence that surrounded the youth of her children has been written for this volume, in the notice of her youngest son, Lewis C. Beck.

On the paternal side Dr. Beck was of English origin, his ancestors being among the earliest settlers of New England. A love of books would seem to have been hereditary on both sides, for in the will of his grandfather "Caleb Beck *gentleman* of Schenectady in the County of Albany," proved before Gov. Cosby, in 1728, one of the first articles named as a valuable legacy is, "my printed books to my son." It might have had its effect, for that son embraced a liberal profession and received his diploma as attorney at law, signed by George Clinton in 1757. Caleb Beck, the father of Dr. Beck, also studied law, but never entered upon its practice; he died when his eldest son was but a few years of age, and the education and rearing his five sons devolved upon his widow and her father, the Rev. Dr. Derick Romeyn. As allusion has already been made to Dr. Romeyn in the life of Lewis Beck, and also to the second of the sons



Abram, no further notice of them seems proper here, but a few words should be given to the remaining brothers of this gifted family, who preceded Romeyn Beck to the grave.

John B. Beck, the third brother, was a physician of much eminence and a writer of ability, one of the principal chapters in Beck's *Medical Jurisprudence*, that on infanticide, was written by him; and he also published several medical works well known to, and still used by the profession. He graduated first in his class in Columbia College, New York, and his life was spent in that city, where he died in 1851, after a long and painful illness, mainly induced by constant mental and physical labor. He had for many years filled the chair of Prof. of Materia Medica in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York.

Nicholas F., the fourth brother, a young lawyer of great promise, died at the early age of thirty. At the period of his death he held the office of Adjutant General of his native state, an office conferred upon him by De Witt Clinton.

T. Romeyn Beck was placed in the grammar school at Schenectady at a very early age, and entered Union College in 1803, graduating when only sixteen. His mother, who entertained a wholesome horror of losing time, placed him immediately after his graduation in the office of Dr. Low and McClelland of Albany. The former was a man of great and varied talent, a fine classical scholar, and a lover of literature. With these gentlemen he remained until the last year of his medical studies, when he entered the office of Dr. David Hosack, who was at that period considered the first physician of the country. In 1811 he received his degree of Doctor of Medicine, presenting an inaugural thesis on insanity. This short treatise, written thus early in life, exhibits a wonderful knowledge of the history of insanity and its treatment. The deep interest he mani-

fested for this afflicted class ceased only with his life. At that period their needs were only partially known and wholly disregarded. In this pamphlet, short as it is, Dr. Beck gives a succinct history of insanity and devotes a portion to the treatment of the insane, advocating public asylums and careful, kindly usage. He lived to see his views endorsed by the eminent men who have made this subject their study, and to witness the inauguration of a new and humane practice, calculating to cure these unfortunates or ameliorate their condition. He modestly introduces his thesis by these words: "It is all that can be expected from one whose opportunities of viewing the disease have been scanty and whose information has been derived chiefly from books."

Dr. Beck commenced the practice of medicine in Albany, and was appointed physician to the alms house the same year. On his resignation of this situation he wrote a memorial to the supervisors on the subject of work houses, replete with sound good sense.

He was but twenty-four years of age when he received the appointment of Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence in the Western College of Phys. and Surgeons located at Fairfield, N. Y. In 1826 he became Professor of Medical Jurisprudence; in 1836 Professor of Materia Medica; filling the two latter chairs until 1840, when it was judged expedient to give up the college in consequence of the establishment of a Medical School in Albany.

Dr. Beck continued the practice of medicine in Albany until 1817, when a growing dislike to practice, and an increasing love for the study of the profession and literature generally, induced him to accept the post of Principal of the Albany Academy. He was naturally sensitive, and the sight of suffering and distress that he could not remove or alleviate wore upon him, and his strength and health alike

failed; his attachment to the profession he had chosen remained unabated, and amid the constant labor which his new occupation gave him, he found leisure to accomplish an amount of work that seems almost incredible. As early as 1813, his letters addressed to his uncle, Dr. John B. Romeyn, then in Europe, indicate the design which a few years brought to a full accomplishment, a work on legal medicine. In 1823, Dr. Beck published the volumes that have made his name familiar to every member of the legal and medical professions. In the words of an eminent lawyer of this state,\* Dr. Beck, "known over the civilized world as the author and founder of medical jurisprudence, a science which he substantially created, he ranks, wherever law and justice are administered, with Blackstone and Bacon, Grotius and D'Aguessau." These volumes were received at home and abroad, with well merited favor. Besides the numerous American editions it has passed through one German and four London editions. In a notice of the German translation, says a bibliographer, "in his native language his work is as yet without a parallel." Since his death two editions have been published. The writer well remembers as each proof sheet arrived, the immediate preparation for a new edition with copious and carefully prepared emendations. While this great work progressed, its author was never unmindful of the claims of all classes of unfortunates; every public charity demanded and received not merely his notice but his ardent support. His carefully prepared statistics of the deaf and dumb, called public attention to their needs. True to his first interest in the insane, their treatment and care occupied much of his attention. Most wisely was he chosen by the governor and senate, one of the managers of the New York State Asylum, and he was reappointed at the expiration of each term of office until his death. In

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\*Alexander W. Bradford, LL. D., Commemoration Address of Albany Academy.



1854 he was unanimously chosen President of the board of managers. In the words of one of the ablest officers of the Asylum, the institution has, at all times, had the advantage of his wise counsels, efficient aid, and ardent devotion, and of his presence and immediate coöperation with his associates, whenever demanded by matters of unusual or special importance. Here, as well as in all other similar positions, he has ever consulted the highest and most enduring good of the interests committed to his charge, without regard to the prejudices or the more apparent benefits of the hour or the day, or any mere personal claims or advantages. His wisdom and experience, his independence, decision and energy, and his unflinching integrity, have made him a most valuable guardian of all the affairs of this great public charity.

After the death of the lamented Brigham, Dr. Beck was induced by the managers of the Asylum to undertake the charge of the *Journal of Insanity* which he conducted until 1854, when "advancing years and more imperative duties" compelled him to resign the charge. When the tidings of his decease reached the afflicted inmates of the Asylum, they requested their chaplain to deliver a funeral sermon on the death of "their friend," and the appropriate words chosen by them as a text for his discourse were, "Having served his generation by the will of God he fell on sleep." His children, deeply touched by the selection so deserved and so well chosen, have placed only this short inscription on the simple head-stone that marks his grave.\*

It is not only as a writer on medicine or insanity, or as an able instructor that Dr. Beck is known. He gave an impulse to every important scientific enterprise of this state. He was one of the originators of the great work of the Geological survey of New York, and under the successive governors intrusted with much of its supervision. The

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\* Dr. Beck was buried in a beautifully retired spot in the old burial ground at Caldwell, on Lake George.



following dedication of the 5th vol. of the survey by Prof. Emmons, shows the light in which he was regarded by the workers in that survey.

“To T. ROMEYN BECK, M. D. LL. D.

“Sir: There is more than one reason why the concluding divisions of the present work, undertaken to explore and illustrate the Natural History of the State of New York, and conducted under legislative patronage, should be dedicated to you.

“You were among the first to foster the enterprise, and remained its consistent advocate in times when adverse circumstances seemed to jeopardize its continuance; much more than this, your whole life has been assiduously engaged in promoting the advance of science and the spread of popular education, and the published results of your scientific and literary labors, may be referred to as reflecting an honor upon your native state. Would that the merits of the present volume were such as to render it more worthy its dedication.”

Not only was he conversant with the scientific workings of this great project, but he introduced a system of economy and order, when appointed a Commissioner to decide upon the various claims that grew out of the contracts, that reduced its expense and facilitated its completion.

As early as 1813, he delivered the annual address before The Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts. The object he states in his preferring to “exhibit at one view the mineral riches of the United States, with their various applications to the arts, and to demonstrate the practicability of the increase of different manufactures, whose materials are derived from this source.” Of this address, his colleague and eulogist, Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, speaks in the following terms:

“This was eminently the field for Dr. Beck’s peculiar talent; it was new, and everything had to be learned from

the beginning; a host of persons and authorities had to be consulted, and the whole to be carefully digested, analyzed, and applied. The result could not have disappointed those who were familiar with his habits; but to one who had known him less, or who was at all acquainted with the difficulties which he was compelled to encounter in the little that was then known of the mineral resources of this country, the result seems astonishing; and to that elaborate and timely paper, we think, the American manufacturer is, to-day, in no small degree indebted for his wealth and prosperity. It was the lens which first brought the scattered rays of light upon this subject to a focus, and which now melts the ores in a thousand furnaces. If, as Dr. Beck asserts, American mineralogy was then in its infancy, he was the first to urge upon it a confidence in itself, and to demonstrate to others its unsuspected capacities, and it is through such early guidance and assistance that it has so rapidly grown to complete manhood, no less than to the "persevering industry, the unconquerable enterprise, and the extraordinary ingenuity of our citizens."

In 1819, Dr. Beck read before the same Society a most valuable paper entitled a "Memoir of Alum." Like every paper that came from his hands, it showed wonderful industry and research. When this Society was merged with the Albany Lyceum into a new organization, the Albany Institute, Dr. Beck became one of its most active members, doing more to increase its library and its varied collection than almost any other person.

In 1841, he was chosen Secretary of the board of regents, and he succeeded in obtaining for them the entire supervision of the State Library and the State Cabinet of Natural History. The State Library alone is a noble monument of his faithfulness and diligence; he found a few volumes scattered, disorganized and partially destroyed; he left a library worthy of the state; nor did his work cease

with his life. The catalogue of books is complete; its collections for years to come testify how thoroughly he completed his task.

To a stranger it will hardly seem possible for Dr. Beck to have done his duty fully in his capacity as instructor, when it is remembered how manifold were his occupations as Secretary of the regents alone, and yet he never neglected the smallest detail of duty. Hear the testimony of scholars who have distinguished themselves in the varied walks of life.

“There was ever the most faithful and vigilant attention to the daily work of the Academy, in all its departments. His capacity for labor, and his systematic, untiring industry have rarely, if ever, been surpassed. The written records of the Academy, of the Institute, of the board of regents, and of all the literary and scientific bodies with which he was connected, bear witness to an amount of patient labor which would seem beyond the power of any man to accomplish.”\*

“The first of the belles lettres scholars in the state, he gave his illustrious mind, that would have dignified the proudest college in the land, to the Albany Academy, and if ever man was honored by his scholars, it is the man whose name is the central thought of the oration of this day.”†

“Theodric Romeyn Beck was a master workman in his profession—in moulding the mind and character of the young unequalled. Himself an untiring, indefatigable student, versed alike in solid learning and elegant literature, he inspired the pupil with similar tastes, lighted in his bosom the spark of noble emulation, elevated his desires and purified his ambition. In emotion, tender, delicate and sensitive as a woman—in perception of moral rectitude

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\*Orlando Meads's Historical Discourse.

†Wm. H. Bogart.

clear and undeviating—he still possessed a wonderful breadth and manliness of character. His brain was massive, his intellectual faculty strong and robust, his temper fearless, his conduct full of gentleness and dignity, modesty and courage. Such glorious qualities commanded respect and secured obedience, and withal presented in the scholar a model worthy of imitation. He was the Arnold of his Rugby. Around him clustered a troop of brave boys—Tom. Browns and all—who loved and honored him with full hearts and flowing affections.”\*

During all these years Dr. Beck enjoyed universally good health, his labors never seemed to impair it. In 1848, he felt that he was doing too much, and he resigned his post as Principal of the Academy, a post which he had well and faithfully filled for nearly a third of a century. He was elected President of the board of trustees, filling this office until his death.

In February 1855 Dr. Beck was seized with what was supposed to be a slight attack of indigestion, but it did not yield readily to medical treatment. From that period until September he continued to have attacks of nausea at intervals of a fortnight, becoming gradually weakened by their recurrence. No danger was however apprehended until that month, when he became so feeble as to make it manifest that his disease approached a fatal termination. A consultation of physicians, Drs. Hun and Parker, and his faithful friend and physician Dr. Willard, pronounced his disease to be “a suspension of the process of assimilation, his food digested but did not assimilate.” He received their dictum with his wonted composure and cheerfulness. This was October 24th, and until November 11th no special change occurred. His last few days can best be told in the words of his physician: “He slept more than usual, and at night comfortably, awaking at his accustom-

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\* Alexander W. Bradford LL. D.



ed hour in the morning ; he sat up nearly every day for a short time, and often devoted a part of this to business ; his books and his papers were around him, and he still devoted himself to them with untiring industry ; although he was sick, he did not know how to be idle. I visited him at all hours, and I always found him with a book in his hand ; when he retired at night, it was with lights arranged by his bedside that he might read until he fell asleep.

With the first loss of sleep, (Nov. 11,) came total prostration, he was unable longer to take nourishment, and soon began what appeared to be the process of dying ; of this he was fully aware, yet no murmur escaped his lips, nor the wish that the termination might be averted. (Nov. 14.) His breathing became gradually more difficult, and his extremities cold ; he was exceedingly restless, but uniformly answered "no" when asked if he was suffering. Each hour appeared for two or three days to be his last, but he rallied again however, and remarked of the wonderful tenacity of his constitution, and expressed surprise that he lived so long. "It is hard breaking the chain," and then he asked, "Is not this a long struggle?" "How long have I been in it?" To my reply "more than twenty-four hours," he asked, "do you think it will last much longer?" Addressing his daughters, who were by his bedside, he said "I had a coldness, a sort of spasm in my side last night, that was near my idea of the coming on of death ; I have thought my case over, it is a remarkable complaint, don't you all think so?" And at the same time he expressed his conviction that he must have organic disease.

At another time, when he thought his daughters greatly fatigued by prolonged attention to him, gazing upon them with paternal tenderness, he said, "I am sorry to tire you so ; I wish it was over." Thus, in his last hours, he did

not fail to regard the comfort of others before himself. His hearing continued acute, and his mind clear and calm through those hours of protracted dissolution, although he was so weak that he could not converse. Thus he lingered until the morning of the 19th. A few hours preceding his death, Mrs. Parmelee was sitting by his side, when he asked, "Where is Catharine?" (Mrs. Van Cortlandt); immediately she was with him. He pressed her hand in token of recognition, gazed upon them for a moment, and then closed his eyes forever. His breathing became quiet, fainter, and still more faint, until at length, gently as sleeps a child, the slumber of death came upon him. And thus passed away this great man, on the 19th of November, 1855, at the age of sixty-four years and three months. Mr. and Mrs. Parmelee, Mrs. Van Cortlandt and myself, were with him when he died."

Dr. Beck was married in 1814, at Caldwell, Warren county, to Harriet, daughter of James Caldwell, a merchant of Albany, whose summer residence was at Lake George. She was a woman of fine literary culture and refined nature, and was taken from him at the early age of thirty-one.

Two daughters survived him. The youngest Mrs. Helen L. Parmelee, followed him to the grave in 1863. Like her father she possessed great industry and research, and a most retentive memory, with rare talents and attainments. She was unostentatious and modest, living and dying a truly Christian woman.

This short sketch of Dr. Beck would be incomplete without a notice of some of the peculiar characteristics of his nature. He had the most intense horror of oppression and injustice whether practiced by corporations or individuals, and his lance was ever on the rest for a tilt with the oppressor. Never did he yield a foot but manfully fought the battles of the weak against the strong. Meanness and preva-

rication were his abhorrence; shams of all sorts, whether found in high or low stations, excited his wrath to its utmost pitch. It may safely be asserted that the few enemies he made during his useful life, some were made so by his manly out spoken defiance of "whosoever maketh a lie." His own standard was high, and he longed to bring all men up to it. It was only those who saw his daily life that knew how much self denial he practiced, nor did they know it to its fullest extent until his death, when his correspondence revealed how incessant had been his benevolence. He had not given largely to great objects, but constantly and noiselessly dispensed the daily charities where the right hand knew not the benefactions of the left. Of his wonderful industry sufficient has been said. An early riser, the first hours of the day were given to study. Each hour had its appointed task. No duty was ever neglected. His greatest relaxation was the perusal of light literature, and he was thoroughly conversant with the poets and authors of his day. Seldom was he found at fault with any quotation. With all this learning and varied information he was modest and unassuming, ever ready and eager to acquire information, nor would any one dream when he mingled in general society that mentally he towered a head and shoulders above the generality of men. Dr. Beck loved his country with the intense love of such a nature, and among his manuscripts are many addresses written for various occasions breathing a spirit of the purest patriotism. Happy for him that he lived not to see calamities brought upon that beloved country by the insane ambition of misguided southern demagogues. In the words he wrote for the monumental stone of one of the revolutionary fathers, he was "blest in closing his eyes upon a country prosperous, united and happy."

Dr. Beck wrote a short sketch of the life of Clinton preparatory to an extended memoir undertaken at the request

of the sons of that lamented statesman. Its opening words are these, "The Academy of Science at Dijon recently asked of their municipality that all houses in the commune which deserved to be historical might be marked by commemorative inscriptions. The council we are told readily acceded to the request, and among the birth places and residences thus designated are those of Buffon, Crevillon, Guyton De Morveau and the Marshal Favennes. We in this country fortunately or unfortunately live in too progressive an age to allow us to ask for similar remembrances."

Surely even in *this progressive age*, while events crowd each other so rapidly, Theodric Romeyn Beck deserves and will receive from the men whose characters he has contributed to form, and who honor themselves in honoring him, some memorial that will tell strangers of his devotion to truth and to the best interests of the home he so loved.

### ERASTUS WILLIAMS.

Erastus Williams was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, on the 7th day of February, 1773, and after studying medicine was examined and received his license under the authority of the Vermont Medical Society on the 9th day of July, 1800. He began his professional career in the town of Berne (now Knox) in Albany county, and became a member of the Medical Society in 1812. Dr. Williams was a man of versatile talents, and they were employed for the general good of the community in which his lot was cast. He was six feet in height, with an erect form, and elastic military carriage; his complexion was light, his hair auburn, his manners gentlemanly, his nature genial and social, and his judgment sound. He enjoyed for many years an extensive country practice. As a Christian he was active and useful, being for a number of years a ruling elder



in the Presbyterian church, and on three different occasions was commissioned to represent the presbytery of Albany in the general assembly. The last time he was a member of that body was just previous to its division in 1838.

Dr. Williams was elected from his assembly district, and served as a representative in the legislature of 1831. He was also greatly interested in military affairs, and ranking as major he served as brigade inspector for several years. His habits were industrious and active. After retiring from the practice of his profession he was always employed, serving as counselor to his friends, and as an executor of estates. He suffered from apoplexy, and having lain in an unconscious state for five days, he died on the 2d of June 1842, at the age of sixty-nine years. Dr. Williams had no sons, and but one daughter, now the wife of the Rev. David Lyon of Mariaville, Schoharie county.

### JONATHAN JOHNSON.

Jonathan Johnson was born in Harwick, Worcester county, Massachusetts, on the 14th day of August, 1788. He was of English descent, and his father had been a soldier in the revolutionary war. Jonathan studied medicine and attended medical lectures and hospital instruction in New York. He then returned to his native town where he spent a short time, and then made his way on horseback in 1808, across the state into Albany county, and settled in Guilderland. He received license from the Society, and became a member of it in 1812, while it was yet in its infancy, and for several years was usually present at its meetings, a circumstance that indicates the importance he attached to medical associations. He subsequently attended lectures in New York, and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from Rutgers College. For a period of nearly half a century he was regularly and perseveringly engaged

in his profession, encountering its toils, meeting its responsibilities and receiving its humble rewards. The circuit of his engagements extended over his own and adjoining towns.

Dr. Johnson was a man of rigid memory, and was especially interested in the study of geography and astronomy. He wrote a valuable paper on mineral poison and several fugitive poems. For many years he was inspector of common schools, and gave his influence to promote the cause of common school education. He was a regular attendant at church, and towards the close of his life it is said that his faith in Christ became full and implicit. He died of disease of the heart on the 23d day of May 1860, at the age of seventy-five years.

His son George T. Johnson was a member of the state senate in 1858 and '59, and another son, Dr. Stephen Johnson, is a practitioner in Cohoes, N. Y.

### PETER DE LA MATER.

Peter De La Mater whose name appears as a member of this Society in July, 1812, was descended from a Dutch family in Ulster county, the record of which dates back to the colonial settlers in 1656. The family were active in the war against the French in Canada. His grandfather Isaac, who was born in 1693, and died April 20th, 1775, had six sons, three of whom, viz.: John, Isaac and Hendrick, married sisters, viz.: Maria, Catharine and Eve Kipp. These parties were all united on the 20th of February, 1752. Peter was the youngest of eight sons of John De La Mater. He was born at Amenia. in Dutchess county, on the 1st day of January, 1773. He commenced the study of the medical profession with his elder brother Abraham, a practitioner in Duanesburg, then a part of Albany county, in the year 1794 or '95. He began practice in Duanesburg, but

removed to New Scotland in 1811. And after seven years returned again to the former town in 1818. Here he resided until 1834, when he removed to the town of Knox adjoining, and was engaged in active duties until 1845. He then retired from business on account of the infirmities of increasing years. He died at the residence of his son, Dr. Stephen G. De La Mater, in Duanesburg, on the 14th of September, 1849, in the seventy seventh year of his age, having been for more than a half a century in the profession. During that period he rendered a large amount of most laborious service. His strength of constitution and iron endurance seemed to be commensurate with the toil that his position, and the nature of the country in which he settled, imposed upon him. It is due to the early practitioners of our profession that praise be spoken of them for their willingness and the alacrity with which they obeyed every summons to the sick, irrespective of time, season, or weather, for the faithful attendance they rendered, and for the moderate compensation they required, and the indulgence they granted in its bestowal; emphatically they were men who were conscientious in the discharge of professional obligations. To the subject of this sketch this meed of praise may be justly accorded.

Of five sons three survive, two of whom are physicians, Dr. Stephen De La Mater, occupying the field of his father, and Dr. Ira M. De La Mater of the city of Albany.

Prof. John De La Mater of Ohio, is a nephew of the subject of this notice.

The family were of Huguenot extraction, having fled from France into Holland.

#### OLIVER LATHROP.

It is difficult to fix the birth place of Oliver Lathrop, or the exact period of his birth. It was however probably

about the year 1767. He was a pupil of the celebrated surgeon, Dr. White of Cherry Valley, and is said to have acquired a skill in surgery honorable to himself, and creditable to his teacher. He was a resident of Watervliet, and officiated at the birth of our excellent associate and friend Dr. Peter Van OLinda, on the 28 December, 1788. Dr. Van OLinda remembers that when he was a boy in 1806 or 1807 he amputated the limb of one of his playfellows, and while living in Schoharie he performed the operation for lithotomy, successfully. Subsequently he removed to Albany when he became a member of the Albany County Medical Society, and for several years he was punctual in attendance at its meetings. His office was on Washington Avenue. Dr. Lathrop was subject to melancholy, and often suffered greatly from mental depression. He met an accidental death by drowning, in 1824, when he was about fifty-seven years of age.

He was a partner of Alexander Sheldon, in 1801, and 1802. He was surgeon of the 6th regiment of cavalry of New York state military forces in 1814.

### JOEL A. WING.

Joel A. Wing was the eldest son of James and Lydia Wing, both natives of Massachusetts. Joel was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, on the 13th of August, 1788, where his early days were spent. Having determined upon entering the medical profession, he became a pupil of Dr. John De La Mater, (since a distinguished professor in the Medical school at Cleveland, Ohio.) During the period of his pupilage he directed his attention especially to the science of Anatomy, and prosecuted private dissections with great zeal, obtaining the *material* with many novel adventures and hair breadth escapes. He devoted himself to surgery also, but in early life he abandoned it as a speciality, on account of imperfect vision.



He became a licentiate of the Medical Society of Montgomery county, in 1811, and the ensuing winter attended the medical lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York.

He returned to Columbia county in this state, and commenced practice. A few months after, on the recommendation of Prof. John Watts, he was appointed surgeon in the army, an appointment he knew nothing of until he received his commission.

He held the appointment under earnest and doubtful consideration for two days, anxiously debating whether he should enter the military service. But he decided in the negative and returned his commission, accompanied by a resignation, to the department at Washington.

He was shortly after, in 1814, appointed post surgeon to a garrison of the army stationed near Albany, and removed to this city and assumed the duties of the position.

In 1816 he united with this Society and ever continued one of its warmest and most reliable friends, filling some one of its various offices for many years. He was elected its President in 1826 and 1827.

In 1832 he became a member of the State Medical Society, and was elected President of that body in 1843, while absent from the country.

In 1825 Williams College conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine. He was for several years, until the period of his illness, one of the managers of the New York State Lunatic Asylum, and was active in securing to it the services of its late distinguished superintendent, Dr. Brigham.

Dr. Wing spent thirty-eight of the forty-one years of his professional life in Albany, and in private practice few physicians became more extensively engaged. So exact was his system, that at the close of his practice he could refer to any prescription of importance that he had made within twenty-five years.

In 1832, while engaged nearly every hour in the twenty-four, scarcely allowing himself any rest or relaxation during the prevalence of the cholera, he was violently attacked with that fearful malady. His recovery was considered by his professional brethren, who were prompt and unwearied in their devotions to him, one of the most remarkable that occurred during the season. But he never afterwards enjoyed uniform good health, and in 1843 was obliged to relinquish his business under no flattering prospect of recovery, and repair to the mild and less variable climate of the West Indies. Here after several months, he so far recovered as to return, and once more plunge into the toils of his profession. With few brief interruptions, he continued actively engaged until the summer of 1851, when he became mentally and physically prostrated, and at length after a weary illness of nearly a year, he died at Hartford, Connecticut, on the 6th of September, 1852, in the 65th year of his age.

Dr. Wing was a man acute in his perceptions, ready and keen in his observations. In every respect he was admirably adapted for the profession of his choice. With great skill he united untiring energy of body and mind. His manners were modest, unassuming, unembarrassed. His habits were social, and in conversation he was winning. He at once enlisted the confidence of the patient and inspired him with hope. In the sick room he was kind and affectionate; there he was a model physician, and among his patients he had most devoted friends.

He read much and possessed an accurate and retentive memory, so that he was able to repeat pages, almost *verbatim*, that he had not seen in years. In health, his spirits were buoyant and gay; his laugh was contagious, his fund of anecdote inexhaustible, and used with great aptness. With an extensive acquaintance his society was much sought, and in the profession throughout the state he had

a multitude of friends. For political distinction, he had no possible desire, and was, in his disposition, averse to the turmoils of such a life. Yet for many years he was intimate with the leading politicians of the state, and possessed a strong social influence with them.

Dr. Wing had some constitutional peculiarities, but none more annoying to his professional brethren than his habit of delaying his visits, and appointments for counsel, beyond the time specified. Indeed so proverbial was this, that years before he died he was known as "the late Dr. Wing," a title he enjoyed, whenever he heard it applied.

His counsels were frequently sought, and in critical cases almost uniformly adopted. The most desperate cases he was unwilling to abandon as hopeless. To the junior members of the profession he was uniformly courteous, and exercised towards them a kindness of manner, that has not always characterised seniors in the medical profession.

To the desponding he had always a word of encouragement, and not unfrequently wholesome advice for the presuming and impertinent. With a favorite volume, he took no note of time and was as regardless of the hours of sleep as of business. At length, with such a habit, sleep came unwillingly and with broken slumbers, until disease grew upon him, and he lost the power of yielding to its soothing and balmy influence. To the poor he was kind and liberal, bestowing upon them his best services without expectation or hope of reward.

Dr. Wing was in every respect a self made man; to society, and to the profession to which his whole life was enthusiastically devoted he was a great loss. Few men have been more popular with the leading men of the profession throughout the state than was he.

Dr. Wing married the daughter of Matthew Gregory of Albany, in 1818; she died in 1837. He left two sons and

two daughters ; the latter reside in Geneva and Rochester respectively. The elder son, Matthew Gregory, being a graduate of Yale College, in 1847 was a valetudinarian voyageur, and resided in Europe several years. He died in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1860. Lieut. James W., late Acting Assistant Paymaster in the U. S. Navy, resides at Rochester.

### THOMAS JAMES GIBBONS.

Thomas J. Gibbons was born in Albany about the month of September, 1796. His father was James Gibbons, an Englishman, for many years a prominent citizen of Albany. Thomas studied medicine and was admitted to membership of the County Medical Society in July, 1817. He had scarcely entered the profession when he was overtaken by pulmonary disease, of which he died on 18th of May, 1819, at the early age of twenty-two years, and nine months.

### ASHBEL WEBSTER.

The Websters were the printers and book publishers of Albany at the beginning of the present century. Their reputation extended as far the books which they printed ever strayed. Their establishment forms a prominent part of the history of Albany, and its situation on the corner of Pearl and State Streets, known as the Old Elm Tree corner, is a Dutch classic location. The establishment was not large and pretending, as are the printing houses of these days. It consisted of a few hand presses, and a few cases of type, and about a dozen workmen were employed in the institution. An annual almanac was issued from this publishing house, which has survived the changes of time and each year is still continued by Mr. Munsell as Webster's Almanac. This place was frequented by the literary men of Albany, and perhaps a part of its fame was from so important a fact.



One of this firm was Charles R. Webster, and his third son, the subject of this notice was Ashbel Webster. Ashbel was born in the city of Albany in the year 1796. He went to Union College, where he maintained a respectable standing, and graduated in 1815, a classmate of Dr. Thos. W. Blatchford of Troy. Soon afterwards he turned his attention to the study of medicine and became a pupil of Dr. James Low, and subsequently attended lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New York, where he took his degree in medicine in 1818. He joined the Medical Society in 1819, and took an office on Pearl street, where he continued for several years. He resided for a short time at Jamaica Plains, Long Island. His practice was never general, and he had withdrawn entirely from professional life for a considerable period before his death, which took place in Albany on the 24th March, 1840, at the age of forty-four years.

Dr. Webster had two brothers, Henry and Richard; the former was a lawyer, and the latter a clergyman of the Presbyterian church in Mauch Chunk, Penn., who died June 19, 1856. A posthumous volume entitled a "History of the Presbyterian Church in America," by Rev. Richard Webster, which was nearly ready for press, was completed, and published by the Rev. Dr. Van Rensselaer, of New Jersey.

### WILLIAM HUMPHREY.

William Humphrey was the son of John Humphrey, and was born in Albany, on the 2d day of February, 1796. His parents were both natives of New Hampshire, but at an early period came to this city. His father died of cholera at an advanced age in 1832. His mother died several years later full of years. Both parents survived to see all their children die of pulmonary disease, though neither of them were predisposed to it.

William was sent to Union College, where he was graduated in, 1813. Having made choice of the medical profession he commenced his preliminary studies with Dr. Eights, and afterwards attended the lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and received the honors of that institution in 1819.

He returned to Albany and commenced business here, continuing it as his health would permit until his death. Dr. Humphrey did not possess a large degree of physical energy, his health was delicate for several years, and the disease which terminated his life was phthisis. It was the subject upon which his thesis was written in 1819.

Dr. Humphrey possessed a fine mind and reasoning faculties; his education was thorough, and he excelled as a linguist. His mind was of a reflective order. His manners were exceedingly mild and amiable. His conversation was marked by great simplicity and earnestness. He was uniformly cheerful, but had no exuberant elasticity of spirits. He had gravity in thought as well as in conversation, and was careful to avoid everything that appeared like pedantry in private or professional life; he never volunteered his opinion, and was unwilling to express it on any subject with which he was not familiar.

His ambition was to do right, and to be useful to his fellow men, rather than to acquire fame in his profession. A native modesty and unassuming manners prevented that rapid rise in his profession which is so often incident to the aspiring who possess less talent and fewer virtues. Says one in noticing his death: "His virtues were numerous and beamed with an effulgence which attracted the attention and elicited the admiration of all who knew him; his benevolence warmed the hearts and cheered the homes of the comfortless. His name was synonymous with all that was noble and disinterested."

He made occasional contributions to medical journals

of the day; his style is said to have been chaste, simple, and forcible. It is impossible now to refer to any of the few articles from his pen. He died on the 12th of March, 1829, in the thirty-first year of his age.

He was elected Secretary of this Society in 1822, and continued to hold the office until the period of his death.

Dr. Humphrey was a sincere Christian, and met death in the calm triumph of Christian faith.

### JOHN AND DANIEL JAMES.

John James was the tenth child, and seventh son of Deacon Daniel James, and was born in Weybridge, Vermont, on the 18th day of May, 1789. Dr. Daniel James was an elder brother. The father was a plain, earnest, practical man, and did all that he could to advance the educational interests of his many sons. Middlebury College was only two miles and a half from his house, and its easy access gave John the opportunity of spending two winters, under its instruction, returning each spring to the various duties of his father's farm. But he was a slender, delicate boy, retiring in his disposition, and did not take kindly to the rough hard work of a New England farm; he determined not to follow it as the pursuit of his life, and therefore left home at an early age, and went to Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where his brother Daniel had a drug store, and became his clerk, and student, and in due time became a practitioner of medicine. He had at some time previously been a student with Dr. Jones of Stockbridge, Mass., for whom he always afterward, entertained a high regard and great affection. While at Pittsfield, an opportunity, offered for him to go to Europe, as medical advisor to Mr. Appleton of Boston, and he sailed from that city in November, 1816. He made a hurried tour through Sicily,

Italy, and France, and returned to London, where he attended the Spring course of Lectures, at the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, in London. Abernethy and Sir Astley Cooper were at that time lecturers to whom Dr. James listened. He afterward attended some of the lecturers at Edinburg, where Dr. Gregory was filling the chair of theory and practice, and Dr. James Thompson, that of surgery.

Dr. James returned to America, in May, 1818, having been absent one year and a half. He seems to have been determined upon a thorough medical education, and his opportunities abroad the more incited his ambition in this respect. In the autumn and winter of 1818, he attended the lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in the city of New York, and received a degree from that institution on the 6th of April, 1819. He almost immediately came to Albany and entered into business with his brother Dr. Daniel James, who then resided here, and in 1820, he united with the County Medical Society.

In the course of the year 1820, he published a volume entitled, "Sketches of travels in Sicily, Italy, and France," 12 mo., pages 275. The volume was one of interest, inasmuch as Americans were much less familiar with those countries then than now. In his descriptions of cities, scenery, fountains, baths, statuary, churches, paintings, temples, people, manners, habits, hospitals, &c., Dr. James evinces a refined and cultivated taste, a chaste and elegant, though not an elaborate style of writing. The work was dedicated to the Hon. Stephen Van Rensselaer. It was designed to be followed by another volume, "a year in England and Scotland," but this was never published.

Dr. James continued to reside in Albany until 1836, when he removed to Alton, Illinois, where he lived for nearly a quarter of a century. For several years he was connected with the Medical Department of Illinois Col-



lege, as Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine. He enjoyed also a large practice in Alton and its vicinity.

Dr. James preserved case books, and wrote out his journals with great care, and left voluminous manuscripts on various subjects, but none of them have fallen under the eye of the writer. He was a man of industry, of quiet habits, a lover of books, among which the last years of his life was mostly spent, of dignified manners and deportment, of Christian faith and practice. He died on the 12th of October, 1859, of typhoid enteritic fever, after an illness of three weeks, at the age of seventy years.

The following notice of the elder brother, Dr. Daniel James, has been kindly contributed by Prof. I. W. Jackson, of Union College.

“The ancestors of Doctor Daniel James were among the early colonists of Rhode Island. Coming originally from Wales, for some time previous to emigrating from the old world, they had resided in Scotland.

Daniel James, the father of the trio of physicians, Daniel, John, and Edwin, was born at Bristol, Rhode Island, in 1746. In 1769 he married Mary Emes and soon after removed to Stockbridge, Mass. Here Daniel, the second son was born Sept. 10th, 1776. In 1788 the family removed to Weybridge, Vermont. On becoming of age, Daniel returned to Stockbridge and commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Jones of that place. Soon after completing his studies, he began his career as a medical practitioner in Pittsfield, Mass. In 1805 he married Lucy Wells, by whom he had four children, three of whom are now living.

In 1810, '12, and '13, he attended the medical lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, in which Drs. Rush, Physic, and Dorsey were then Professors.

About the year 1813 he removed to Albany. Soon after Mrs. James died, and in 1818 he married the widow of Loyal Case, Esq., of Middlebury, Vermont. She lived but three years, and in 1823 he married Hettie Delavan, sister

of E. C. Delavan, Esq. His health becoming infirm, he soon after relinquished the practice of his profession and retired to a farm in Galway, Saratoga county. While living here he spent several winters in Florida, as the medical attendant of invalids whom he accompanied thither from the north.

After a residence of some years in Galway, Mrs. James was attacked with a cancerous affection which rendered it expedient to leave the farm. Their next permanent residence was Utica, where Mrs. James died.

While residing at Utica the Doctor spent several summers in succession at the Red Sulphur Springs of Virginia, where his health received needed annual renovation, and his professional skill was in constant requisition and highly appreciated. In 1842 he married Angelica G. Macbeth, niece and adopted daughter of the Hon. Ezekiel Gilbert, of Hudson N. Y. About 1851 he removed to the village of New Hartford, near Utica where he spent the remaining years of his life. He died January 31st, 1861.

Dr. James belongs preëminently to the class of self-educated men. His opportunities for intellectual training so far as seminaries of learning were concerned, were limited to those furnished by the common school more than half a century ago, and of these he was able to avail himself only occasionally. Up to the age of twenty-one his days were given to the labors of the field, chiefly too, in a new country in which the demands upon the pioneer cultivator were severe and incessant. The few books that he was able to procure could thus be read or studied only in the evening, during hours which most young men in his position would have spent in listlessness or sleep. But these short intervals were systematically improved, nor were his days lost in mere corporeal labor. He was by nature a close and accurate observer and found healthful intellectual exercise in noting, experimenting, and reasoning upon

whatever was taking place around him, whether in the immediate province of his labors, or in the more extended field of nature beyond it.

With his ardent thirst for knowledge, the circumstances in which young James was placed would in most cases have produced a morbid condition of mind or at least a chronic distaste for rural pursuits, but on him the effect was far different. He acquired a love for agriculture and gardening which amounted almost to a passion and which he retained undiminished to the end of his life. He became a worshipper of nature in all her aspects and productions. A noble tree was for him an object of reverence.

Thus in spite of the depressing conditions of his life, the period of his nonage was healthful and happy: he grew up a strong, energetic, self-reliant man.

Very early he had formed the resolution, that sooner or later he would be a physician, and when at the age of twenty-one came the period of his release from the labors of the farm, he returned to the beautiful village of his birth to carry out his long cherished design.

In Stockbridge, that beau-ideal of a little community known as a New England village, which unhappily is no longer to be found even in New England, was at this time, probably as completely verified as it has ever been. Emigration had not destroyed the homogeneity of its population, nor had universal suffrage subverted the equilibrium of its politics. The claims to respect of the higher class was founded on something better than its wealth, and most of the old deference paid to birth and position was still freely conceded as a right.

Judge Sedgewick was the leading man of Stockbridge, and the numerous members of his family, afterwards so distinguished by their virtues and talents, were then growing up. In such society and under such influences young James pursued his studies. The contrast between life in



Stockbridge, and life in the solitary Vermont farm house must have been great.

The professional career of Dr. James opened very favorably, and as long as his health permitted him to pursue it, its rewards in position at least, were all that he could desire. In Pittsfield where he spent the first ten years of his professional life he soon acquired both abundant practice as a physician and influence and esteem as a citizen; and when in Albany he sought a wider field for the exercise of his talents, he became immediately the cherished medical attendant of some of the leading families of the city; the Hon. Stephen Van Rensselaer's, Judge Spencer's, Dewitt Clinton's, and others of that class.

His methods of practice were very much in advance of those almost universally pursued at that day. He seems early to have learned the truth, only now beginning to be apprehended that *nature, not medicine cures disease*. It must not be supposed that he therefore regarded medicine as useless; on the contrary he used frequently to say that he had great faith in a little medicine judiciously administered.

A just notion of his merits may best be given by saying, that in his treatment of a patient he truly exemplified the office of the physician as laid down by the profound and accomplished author of a recent address before the Medical Society of New York.

A firm believer in the truth of Christianity, it seemed ever his aim without ostentation to conform his actions to the precepts of its Divine Author. His interest in the well being and happiness of his fellow men was universal, extending to every grade of social position and to every condition and circumstance of life. Indeed few men have lived who could with greater truth than Dr. James, adopt as their own the classic formula of the expression of philanthropic sentiment:

*Homo sum et humani a me nil alienum puto*".



## ROGER VIETS.

Roger Viets while a citizen of Albany, lived in social seclusion, and aloof from the Society of his professional brethren. His nearest neighbors knew nothing of his history, and he admitted none into intimate relation. No efforts have been spared to gain some definite knowledge of this man's birth place, and while before the mind of the writer, the form and appearance of Roger Viets is as clear as that of Dominie Sampson, to the readers of Guy Manner- ing, the dates are wanting to define his entrance into and exit from the world. He became a member of the Medical Society in 1820, and used frequently to visit the library for books and publications. He was a tall man, of spare habit, and as uniform in his dress of cinnamon colored cloth, as a quaker in his brown. They were always the same un- varying garments, and seldom renewed, and never changed in style or color. He is said to have worn the same hat during the whole fifteen years that he lived in Albany. His manners were eccentric, retired, unsocial, everything that pertained to him was unlike the rest of mankind. Every person's recollection of him is that he was a "very odd man;" the expression is unanimous, so that upon in- quiring relative to his birth, it was doubted if he was born as other men are. In the published report of the city's proceedings relative to cholera in 1832, there is an item mentioned "To Dr. Viets for attending woman in con- finement, \$3.00." certainly not an exorbitant charge, if it was paid in full. He was active during the cholera ex- citement of 1832. Dr. Viets's office was on Washington Avenue. He was a man of intelligence, who however, never allowed any person to form an estimate of his knowl- edge by anything that he said. Dr. Viets purchased cer- tain military land tracts in Illinois, which became valuable,

and he removed to that state, not far from 1834, where he died about 1852, or 1853.

“No further seek his merits to disclose.”

### HENRY BARNARD HALLENBECK.

Henry Barnard Hallenbeck, was the eldest son of Henry B. Hallenbeck, and descended from Hendrick Hallenbeck, one of the early Dutch settlers of Albany, and an owner of large landed estates in the settlement. Henry was born in Albany on the first day of March, 1796. He became a pupil in medicine with Dr. William Bay, and probably received his license from the County Medical Society, to which he was admitted as a member in 1821. He settled in the town of Bethlehem, about five miles below the city, where he acquired the reputation of being a good practitioner, and was esteemed by the community in which he lived. He fell a victim of consumption, and died in April, 1825, at the age of twenty-nine years.

### MOSES CLEMENT.

Moses Clement, was the eldest son of John Clement, a farmer of New Hampshire, where Moses was born, in Hopkinton, N. H., March 20th, 1780. He studied medicine with Dr. Eben Learned, and attended lectures at Dartmouth College. He received his license to practice from the New Hampshire Medical Society, on the 4th of June, 1807. Ammi K. Cutler being President, and L. Spaulding, Secretary. Dr. Clement settled in Coeymans, in 1808, where he continued to reside during the whole of his life. He united with the County Medical Society in 1821. Dr. Clement married Rachael Capron of Coeymans,

by whom he had one son, and three daughters. He died of Pneumonia, on the 3d day of December, 1831, at the age of fifty-one years, having been in practice twenty-five years.

### CHRISTOPHER C. YATES.

Christopher C. Yates was born in Rensselaer county, about the year 1778. He studied medicine with Dr. Samuel Stringer, a veteran in the profession, and was probably licensed by the Supreme court of the state, in the year 1802, or 1803. For many years Dr. Yates resided in Albany; and at one time created a great excitement in the community by exhuming a half breed Indian, who had died here, for purposes of dissection. The public were incensed by such sacrilege! Dr. Yates braved the storm almost at the risk of his life. But public opinion softens and changes; and now such occurrences are not only expected as a matter of course, but are deemed of too little importance to excite even a comment.

In 1812, a billious epidemic fever appeared in Albany, upon which Dr. Yates wrote an article, which was published in the *American and Philosophical Register* in 1813. He attributed the prominent characteristics of the disease to derangement of the functions of the liver, and regarded the malady as purely inflammatory in its nature, and the treatment adopted was of the old heroic practice. The article was reviewed by Drs. Hosack and Francis. In 1820, he took an active and decided part in the controversy on yellow fever.

In 1832 he published an article on epidemic, Asiatic or spasmodic cholera, as it prevailed in the city of New York, with advice to planters in the south, on the medical treatment of their slaves. This was issued from New York, where he at that time and for several years afterwards re-

sided. He also discussed the symptoms and treatment of cholera in a letter to Dr. Barent P. Staats, the health officer of Albany in 1832, and gave an account of the disease as observed by French authors. These articles are preserved in the State library. While residing in New York, Dr. Yates lost a son, Winfield Scott Yates, a lad of eighteen years, who was extraordinarily proficient in the various branches of learning. He died January 27th, 1833.

Dr. Yates about this time gave his attention to the cure of stammering, as a professional specialty, but there remains no evidence that he was particularly skillful in such cases.

He returned to Albany about 1840, and resided for a few years, when he removed to Parishborough, in Nova Scotia, where he passed the remainder of his days, and died on the 23d of September, 1848.

In personal appearance Dr. Yates was tall, with a slender figure, gentlemanly manners, an intelligent face, and prepossessing address. He was a man well read in his profession, and of considerable intellectual ability and culture, and might have occupied a high rank in his profession. His judgment seemed to have been often at fault. It might be charity to stop here; but it is truthful to add, that in his character and example, there was nothing to admire, but everything to avoid; and that his influence upon the profession, and upon society, was demoralizing.

### SAMUEL STRINGER TREAT.

Samuel Stringer Treat, the second son of Richard S. Treat, and grandson of Dr. Samuel Stringer, \* a surgeon of

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\* Died, July 11, 1817, Dr. Samuel Stringer, in the 83d year of his age. He was a native of the state of Maryland, but acquired his medical education in Philadelphia. In 1755 he received an appointment in the medical department of the British army. In 1758 he accompanied the Army under



distinction in the American army, was born in Albany in 1799. He enjoyed the best advantages the city afforded for laying the foundation of his education, and he commenced the study of his profession in the office of his grandfather. He afterwards attended medical instruction at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and graduated in 1822, and the same year united with this Society.

Dr. Treat was a man of more than ordinary intellect, of a quiet, retiring disposition, and with only a moderate love for the perplexities of the profession he had chosen. Inheriting the ample estate of his grandfather he felt none of that necessity that stimulates and presses young men into the arena of professional life. He was for a short time the partner of Dr. Eights, and gained the esteem and confidence of his patrons; this was perhaps less on account of his attainments and skill as a physician, than the natural result of intelligence combined with amiability, gentle and winning manners. He was companionable, generous and warm hearted; his conversation was spiced with wit and humor. He was tall and slender in person, and his dress exhibited extreme neatness; indeed there was something in his appearance, meet him when and where you might, that would have impressed even a stranger with the conviction that he was a gentleman. His social excellencies endeared him to a large circle of friends.

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Abercrombie, and was present when Lord Howe fell in advancing to the siege of Ticonderoga. At the conclusion of the French war he settled in Albany, in the practice of his profession, in which he continued until the commencement of the revolution, when he was appointed by congress director general of the hospitals in the northern department, and accompanied the troops in the invasion of the British dominions in Canada. He closed a long course of successful practice as an eminent physician and surgeon, in the discharge of every Christian duty as an humble servant and follower of the Messiah. Munsell's *Annals of Albany*.

Dr. Stringer always adhered to the style of dress incident to the old school gentleman. He wore the cocked hat, the tight breeches, the shoes with large buckles.

He was a good student and fond of literature, but had no particular love for the sciences.

The ordeal to professional distinction was not passed when he became a victim to disease of the lungs, of which he died on the 29th of February, 1832, at the age of thirty-three years.

He died in the communion of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

### LEWIS C. BECK.

BY MRS. CATHARINE E. VAN CORTLANDT.

Lewis C. Beck was the younger of the brothers so identified with the medical and scientific history of their native state. It has been well and truly said that "there never was a great man, the elements of whose greatness might not be traced to the original characteristics or early training of his mother." This was eminently the case with these brothers. Their mother possessed a well balanced mind, and had received no common training. Mrs. Beck was the only daughter of the Revd. Dr. Derick Romeyn, Professor of Theology in the Reformed Dutch church, a man of great learning and piety; he twice refused the Presidency of Queen's College, New Jersey, and was the founder of Union College in our own state. A Regent of the University, the subject of education demanded and received much of his attention. It was probably owing to this fact that his own children were so well and thoroughly educated; his only son, Dr. John B. Romeyn, was widely known as an eloquent and useful clergyman of the Presbyterian church. Dr. Derick Romeyn was devoted to the cause of liberty, and corresponded with the leaders of the American Revolution, Washington, Clinton, and the other great men of that day, in reference to the cause so dear to them all, becoming by these means obnoxious to the Tories in his neighborhood. They charged him with the crime of "preaching liberty," and at one period a reward was of-

ferred for his capture. He was pastor of the church in Hackensack when that village was burned by the Hessians, and of Esopus when it shared a similar fate at the hands of the British; his daughter was the companion of his flight from the latter place, and was the inmate of the parsonage at Hackensack where her father and the brave Col. Richard Varick were secreted during the attack. In this school of trial and endurance Mrs. Beck early learned lessons of fortitude and energy. In 1784 Dr. Romeyn was called to the church in Schenectady, and here Mrs. Beck married and here all her sons were born. Left a widow at the early age of twenty-nine, she determined that no exertion should be spared on her part to give her five sons a liberal education, her ardent desire being that each of them should embrace a profession, a desire encouraged by her father and in furtherance of which she had his advice and assistance while he lived. To attain this object however, demanded much self-denial and active exertion. Studying with them most of their lessons and diligently caring for every household duty, the home of their childhood presents a beautiful picture. Her good sense, industry and tenderness overcame all obstacles; she lived to see her sons useful in their generation, and honored by all who knew her worth; she entered into her rest at the age of eighty-five, "a shock of corn fully ripe."

Lewis C. Beck was born several months after the death of his father, and was an object of peculiar tenderness to his mother. His early education was received at the grammar school of his native city. During his childhood and youth he displayed evidences of that love of nature that characterized his riper years, and was remarkable even then, for the exquisite neatness and careful manipulation that marked every childish experiment and handiwork. He entered Union College at an early age, and graduated

in 1815. Immediately commencing the study of medicine with Dr. Thomas Dunlap of Schenectady, a venerable and beloved physician, who survived his pupil several years, dying in 1861.

Dr. Beck entered upon the practice of medicine in Schenectady when only a little over nineteen years of age. Abram Beck, the second of the brothers, a man of varied talent and great energy, had the year previous commenced the practice of law in St. Louis, and seeing the opening in that region for men of ability, urged his younger brother to remove thither. In those days the journey was most tedious and trying, but it possessed many advantages for a careful observer. Nothing seemed to escape the eye of that youthful traveler, and he acquired an accurate knowledge of the botany and mineralogy of the country through which he slowly journeyed. On his arrival at St. Louis, he found no advantageous opening for the practice of medicine, a fact that seems to have caused him little regret, for in his journal, he writes of having immediately commenced to make himself acquainted "with the natural productions of the region, and in making collections for some publication that might bring them into notice. "I was," says he, "the more desirous of doing this as it seemed to fall in with my previous pursuits." He also amassed materials for an account of St. Louis, so rich in historical reminiscences; the mass of information gathered was carefully selected and from it was formed *The Gazetteer of Illinois and Missouri*. This work was published in 1822, but never received from the public the attention it merited. It was a work demanding and receiving great care and neatness, the maps and engravings being executed in the best manner, but probably owing to a want of energy on the part of the publishers was little known. In December, 1820, Dr. Beck left St. Louis for home on professional business for his brother, this time making the journey on



horseback; a mode of traveling allowing a most careful and extended observation of the country. He reached Washington in season to hear the discussions on the famous Missouri question, prior to the passage of the Missouri compromise, witnessing also the inauguration of President Monroe. The succeeding year Dr. Beck resided with his brother, Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, at Albany, busily engaged upon the *Gazetteer*.

The death of Abram Beck obliged him once more to visit St. Louis, but he had finally at the solicitation of his mother given up "the prospect of successful adventure in a part of the country which seemed to promise a great reward to industry and enterprise, the rich harvest to which its natural history presented, and which I had as it were just begun to gather, made me regret the necessity which seemed laid upon me to return." The manuscript narrative from which these slight notices of Dr. Beck's western tours are drawn, impresses the reader, most forcibly with the sagacity and forethought of its author. The very sites named by him as suitable localities for cities and towns, in the then almost uninhabited region, have since been chosen by the pioneer builders of the great west, and he lived to see his anticipation fully realized. On his return to Albany he commenced anew the practice of medicine. He had, however, the same dislike to the practice that induced his brother to resign it, although like him, pursuing its study with ardent zeal. Two papers written at this time for the *Medical and Physical Journal*, of which his brother, Dr. John B. Beck, was one of the editors, show his attachment to his profession. They are entitled "Facts relative to a disease generally known by the name of sick stomach, or milk sickness;" and "An account of the small pox, modified small pox and chicken pox, which prevailed in the city of Albany during the months of February, March, and April, 1824, with remarks on the identity of these dis-

eases, and upon the anti-variolous power of vaccination." In 1823, the Albany lyceum of natural history was established, in which he took a deep interest, devoting much time to the classification and arrangements of its minerals. This Society held its meetings in one of the rooms of the Albany Academy, and 1828 it, together with the Society for the promotion of useful arts in the state of New York, was merged in a new association called the Albany Institute. Of the thirteen original officers of the institute but four survive. The Hon. Peter Gansevoort, Joseph Henry, Richard Varick Dewitt, and George W. Clinton.

The venerable President, the patriot and generous patron of science and literature, Stephen Van Rensselaer; the scholar and man of science, the friend of Washington, Simeon Dewitt; the brothers T. Romeyn and Lewis C. Beck, M. Henry Webster, Wm. Mayell, Henry W. Snyder, Wm. Cooper, all have passed away. Many members of the institute must remember well, the energy and enthusiasm of the brothers in this work and their desire that the home of their choice, Albany, should become in the words of the elder, "A focus in which shall be concentrated all the numerous and diversified productions of our state. Nothing is wanting but a proper devotion of that portion of our time, which can be prudently allotted to it; and we should recollect that we are under peculiar obligations to endeavor to effect this." How well they fulfilled these obligations many can attest; none but those whose privilege it was to see their daily life, can know in the fullest extent, their unceasing industry, and generous self-devotion to the cause of humanity, and the improvement of mankind. Before the institute, Dr. Lewis Beck read a number of papers mainly upon the botany and mineralogy of New York. In 1824 he delivered a course of lectures on botany at the Berkshire Medical Institution, and later in the same year received the appointment of junior

professor of botany, mineralogy, and zoölogy in the Rensselaer school ; a school planned by Prof. Amos Easton and supported for many years by the liberality of the patroon. Dr. Beck remained in his school until 1829, his professorship being changed the year previous, to that of chemistry and natural history.

In 1825 he married Hannah Maria, the daughter of Major Israel Smith of Albany. This most estimable woman still survives him. During the summer of the succeeding year he was appointed professor of botany and chemistry in the Vermont Academy of Medicine located at Castleton, and in 1826 he delivered a course of lectures on chemistry at Middlebury College, Vt.; and also a short course on botany at the Western College of Physicians and Surgeons, Fairfield, N. Y.

During all this period Dr. Beck's pen was not idle. Many interesting and useful articles were from time to time published in *Silliman's Journal*, in the *New York Medical and Physical Journal* and the *Transactions of the Albany Institute*. Among the most important of these are the "account of the salt springs at Salina, and a chemical examination of the water," and an article on "the nature of the compound known as chlorides of soda, lime, &c., and their uses as disinfecting agents." About this time the Hon. Joseph Henry, the distinguished secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, with Dr. Beck, published a scale of chemical equivalents, an improvement upon the original instrument constructed under the direction of the celebrated Dr. Wollaston; Prof. Henry arranging the divisions and furnishing the account of the mathematical construction, Dr. Beck arranging the substances according to their atomic weight, and preparing the copy for the engraver, a labor needing all his accuracy and exceeding neatness. During the intervals of his lectures while residing in Albany, he devoted much time to the study of the ferns and mosses of

the United States. After more than a year of labor he relinquished the idea of publishing a work on the subject; finding no publisher willing to incur the risk of venturing on a branch of botany so little known and studied at that time. Dr. Beck did not consider his time lost, preparing him as it did for labors of a similar kind. It was also the means of making him acquainted with an ardent fellow traveler in the walks of science. This was the Rev. Lewis De Schweinitz a Moravian clergyman of Bethlehem, Penn. Seeing Dr. Beck's paper on ferns and mosses in *Silliman's Journal*, De Schweinitz wrote to him, proffering most valuable assistance, and eventually transmitting to him his extensive collection for examination.

In 1830 Dr. Beck was elected professor of chemistry and natural history in Rutgers's College, New Brunswick. He did not, however, enter upon his duties until the ensuing year. Remaining still a resident of Albany, he was busily engaged upon a manual of chemistry intended as a text book for colleges and medical schools. In the winter of 1830-31 he, in connection with Dr. T. Romeyn Beck and Professor Henry, delivered a popular course of chemical lectures at the Albany Academy.

In 1832 the Asiatic cholera appeared upon this continent; and so intense was the alarm felt at the approach of this dreaded visitant, that the governor of the state, Enos T. Throop, convened a special session of the legislature to devise such measures as might be thought necessary to prevent its spread. By a special act of this body, Governor Throop was clothed with extraordinary authority to meet any contingencies. Dr. Beck received the appointment of agent to visit the northern and western frontiers of the state, and to procure all possible information in relation to this terrible disease. He was also charged with the duty of arranging with all local boards of health, to procure complete statistics of its ravages. On his return



to Albany he presented a full and valuable report on the nature of the disease, its geographical march, its causes, its treatment and the sanitary regulations needed to arrest its progress. The report was published in the transactions of the New York State Medical Society, and republished in the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*. During the same year, Dr. Beck wrote a most valuable paper on the commercial potash of New York. He had been chosen by the legislature to examine into the process adopted for the manufacture of potash, and to analyze samples with a view to protect as much as possible the consumer against negligence and fraud on the part of the manufacturer. This paper appeared in *Silliman's Journal*. In 1833 Dr. Beck resigned his professorship in the Vermont Academy of Medicine, and during the same year published a volume on the botany of the northern and middle states; dedicating it to his friend, De Schweinitz.

The following year he received an appointment as professor of chemistry in the University of New York, which position he held until 1838, when all the professors, with a single exception, were removed by most arbitrary action on the part of the council and chancellor.

The Hon. John A. Dix, then secretary of state, presented in 1836, a report to the legislature, setting forth the importance of a geological survey of this state, and a liberal grant of more than one hundred thousand dollars was appropriated for this object. Dr. T. Romeyn Beck was one of the originators of this plan, and ardently supported it. William L. Marcy, the governor, a man of large views and comprehensive mind, forwarded this grand work. Lewis C. Beck received from him the appointment of mineralogist to the survey, including in its duties, a scientific description, and chemical analysis of all soils and minerals. To this work, so congenial to his tastes, he gave seven years of arduous toil. In his own words: "I com-

menced the work with a zeal arising from a fondness for the pursuit in which I was engaged, and with a desire to make my researches useful to the people of the state who had made such a liberal appropriation for their completion." Dr. Beck's management of the portion of the state survey committed to his charge was marked by his usual industry, rigid economy, and great devotion to the public interests. At the close of each day, the work was regularly posted up, so that if another hand should be obliged to take it up, his labor would be available for its completion. This was characteristic of the man, and his incorruptible integrity. He dealt with the state as he dealt with individuals; scorning to overreach or misappropriate a farthing not rightfully needed for this purpose. Before the completion of his great work, Dr. Beck accepted the professorship of chemistry and pharmacy in the Albany Medical College, and delivered a course of lectures each year, until his death. These lectures with his duties at Rutgers's College, New Brunswick, where he now resided, would have fully occupied all the time of an ordinary man; but Lewis Beck was no ordinary man. With unwearying industry, he was preparing a new edition of his botany for the press, and a most valuable and useful book for "the physician, the apothecary and the artisan," on "the adulterations of various substances used in medicine and the arts, with the means of detecting them." Added to these were papers for *Silliman's Journal*, and an elaborate report for the commissioners of patents on the breadstuffs of the United States, and their adulterations. But all this labor was beginning to tell upon him; and for several years before his death, the slight form grew slighter, and the elastic step was slower. Still he worked on. Like his brother, Dr. John B. Beck, who had gone before him but a little while, and the beloved elder brother who was soon to follow them, he labored for the good of others,

and for the furtherance of the object that they all had so much at heart. Not for position or for fame they labored, but for the good of mankind; content to wear out, but not to rust out. Each died at his post, believing that their work was a life work; not to be laid down until the Master saw fit to call them.

It was fitting that the last literary labor of Lewis Beck should be in aid of a needy church. He was to deliver a lecture in a neighboring city, the subject, Sir Humphrey Davy, and his times; but a storm prevented its delivery. Feeble as he was, the preparation was too much for him, and no doubt, hastened his death.

The winter of 1852-53 found him as usual at Albany, faithfully lecturing to his class; but his health gradually declined until April, when he suddenly grew worse, and after a few days suffering he died on the 20th of the month, in the 55th year of his age. His sun went down at noon, but he had accomplished more than many a man who lives out his threescore years and ten! Who can estimate the value of such a life? The many young men who have from time to time been privileged to listen to his teachings, can attest how reverently he taught them to see the Creator's hand in his works, and can bear witness that in those teachings, science was never made irreconcilable with religion, but rather her handmaid. A Christian man, he taught as such a man should teach. The secret of the thorough respect those pupils felt for their teacher, was the knowledge on their part, boys as some of them were, of his honesty of purpose, and his respect for them. Does this expression seem misplaced? Respect for boys? It is an eminently proper expression. If more teachers felt this, boys would not be the troublesome fellows they are usually deemed, and not unjustly. In the language of an old pupil, "Dr. Beck made you feel that it was his desire, that you should learn what he



taught.”\* They felt this, and even to this day, show it whenever an opportunity occurs, of giving their testimony to his fidelity. The notice of his death in the journals of the day brought swift payments of long unsettled accounts for instruction from those whose very names, perchance, had been forgotten by their teacher, and with them heartfelt tributes of respect to his mourning widow.

Six children, of the nine born to him, survive. The eldest son, T. Romeyn Beck, is professor in Holland University, Michigan.

The five brothers, and that noble mother, a second Cornelia, have all gone to their reward; but the memory of what they did for their fellow men will not soon perish. A few survivors here and there still recollect the evenings at the old Academy, after the lectures or the meetings of the Institute were over, and the gathering about the hearth to discuss matters of science and humanity, deeming nothing too small or mean, for reverent administration, that their Creator had made. Their keen interchange of thought, their genial companionship was not disturbed, but enhanced by the presence of the mother, ever near; her keen blue eyes kindling as she listened to the noble themes of discussion, with her clear judgment and well stored mind; her guests were welcome. “Having served their generation, they fell on sleep.” What nobler eulogy can be written of them than those simple words of Holy Writ! We leave them to their hallowed rest, and, remembering how they served their generation, let us take courage and humbly endeavor, each one of us, in our appropriate sphere, to do what our hands find to do for our fellow man. “Then, whether in the morning of life, or at its fevered bustling noon-day, or in the declining hour we depart, our memories will be cherished, and our names implore the passing tribute of a sigh.” †

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\* J. V. P. Quackenbush, M. D., Surg. Gen., N. Y.

† T. R. Beck's Eulogium on Simeon De Witt.



## MICHAEL FRELIGH.

In order to encourage the population of Her Majesty's provinces in America, Queen Anne, who was on the throne in 1700, held out certain inducements which enticed large numbers, and among them many from Holland, to emigrate to this country, in order to avail themselves of the promised rewards, and thereby to improve their domestic comfort and prosperity. The encouragement offered by the English government was understood to have consisted in lands and implements of husbandry of every description necessary for new beginners, in a new and unsettled country. The journey was long and perilous; crossing the ocean, tedious and uncertain. Many of the emigrants arrived with exhausted means and in destitute condition, and only to suffer overwhelming disappointment in their application to the almoner of the crown. The promised inducements were not only denied to them, but an extravagant price demanded for every article that could be purchased.

With stoic firmness of purpose, these Dutch adventurers "girdled the trees, and with an uncouth hoe dug up the mucky soil, and committed to the virgin earth the first seeds whose produce was to afford them hopes of escape from threatened starvation."

Among the number who settled in Ulster county was a family of Frelighs. They brought with them strong attachments to, and professions of the protestant faith, and they held sacred the principles and practices of their forefathers.

Peter Freligh was one of these Dutch adventurers. Two of his sons, Solomon and Moses, became pious ministers in the Reformed Dutch church of the United States. A third son was Hendrick, whose eldest son George was the father of Michael Freligh, the subject of this notice.

Michael was born near Rhinebeck, in Dutchess county, on the 7th of July, 1770. At an early age he commenced the study of medicine under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Anthony, and subsequently attended the lectures of Drs. Shippen and Rush, at Philadelphia. His certificate or diploma, which was all the law then required, read thus :

OMNIBUS HAS LITERAS LECTURIS SALUTEM.

I do certify that Michael Freligh did commence the study of physic and surgery, together with all their several auxiliary branches, under my care on the 16th day of the 2d month, 1785. That according to our agreement he continued with me two years ; during which time he not only applied himself with indefatigable industry to his studies, especially in anatomy, but also paid uncommon attention to the practice of physic and surgery, in visiting the sick, in which he manifested strong marks of a large share of ingenuity, and thereby acquired such a component knowledge of said sciences as may enable him to practice the same with encouragement and success. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Nine Partners, Dutchess county, on the 29th day of the 9th month, 1787.

BENJAMIN ANTHONY.

In addition to the above,

I do now certify, that the said Michael Freligh, did attend the winter past, at the city of Philadelphia, a course of Dr. William Shippen's lectures on anatomy, surgery and midwifery, and a course of Dr. Benjamin Rush's lectures on the theory and practice of physic, and likewise the practice of the Pennsylvania hospital, and thereby perfected in some degree a more complete knowledge of those sciences. The study of which he first commenced under my auspices, 1st day of the 6th month, 1788.

BENJAMIN ANTHONY.

Freligh was a lad of fifteen when he began to study medicine, and only a youth of eighteen when he had the

authority that entitled him to the dignity of doctor. It was an early period in life to assume the responsibility that pertains to the duty of the position. Dr. Freligh went to Schenectady and began the practice of his profession, and, so far as is known, with successful results. His natural abilities were far more than ordinary, and he seems to have possessed a practical good judgment. He continued not only to read, but to think for himself.

After five years he removed to the town of Watervliet where he became extensively engaged in practice, and largely won the public confidence; and his reputation extended into the adjoining towns on every side. Dr. Freligh was remarkably diligent in his attention to his patients, and generous, and faithful to the sick poor. Notwithstanding broken rest, he often rose at four in the morning in the summer, and worked in his garden. He possessed a good library and spent much time in reading. His manners were gentle, his habits genial and social, and towards young people always attractive and agreeable.

Dr. Freligh was elected a member of the legislature in 1816; another district from Albany county being filled that year by Dr. Jesse Smith. In his politics he was an earnest whig. He was a public spirited, enterprising man; greatly interested in all the prominent movements of his day. He was a firm advocate of the cause of temperance, and not only wrote, but lectured for its advancement. One of his lectures was published in 1832. It is written in a clear, vigorous style, and aimed at the consciences as well as the intellect of his hearers. No inconsiderable part of his writings in later years were in letters to his children, in which he reasoned upon various subjects, and always saw sermons in brooks, and rocks, and hills, and God in everything. A single extract may suffice for illustration. It was written at the age of eighty years in a clear, beautiful hand, on a stormy day in January, when

he was confined to the house by the rain and hail, and is as follows:

“In the peach and plumb I find the perfuming flower covering and embracing a small globular body attached to the little slender stem by which it hangs suspended from the limb of the tree. It is now, and for some time continues to be soft, easily penetrated by a pin or knife; at length the fruit ripens and in its center I find a hard stone or pit, constituting one-fifth or sixth or eighth part of the whole mass, and so hard as to require a hammer to break it. Now it is evident that the stone or seed could not in its full size and hardness have passed through the little slender stem by which the fruit draws its nourishment from the tree. How then came it there? Well it is evident that it must have passed through the tube in a liquid state and become hardened after the matter was deposited in its appropriate place. But how was the juice of the fruit, and the stone taught to flow in from the tree separately, so as not to mix and destroy the fruit or the future seed? or have the fruit and the stone separate tubes set apart for the conveyance of the material adapted to the several natures of the plant? and if so, who has communicated to them this exquisite organization? This structure of the fruit is as uniform as the rising and setting of the sun. I have never known the stony matter to be diffused through the pulp of the fruit, nor yet the pulp occupying the place of the stone. What manner of wisdom is this among the trees!! \* \* Man neither knows nor understands the principle or the construction.”

Some of these letters exhibit familiarity with ancient and modern history, with agriculture and the natural sciences, and abound in constant admiration of the beauties of nature.

Dr. Freligh was in professional life for forty-six years; retiring from its more active duties about 1832.



The evening of his life was passed in his own pleasant home, surrounded by his family and friends. He survived in remarkable, intellectual and physical vigor until the 26th day of June, 1853, when he died at the age of 83 years.

Some of his lines, written only a few years before his death, are worthy of insertion in this place; but the first and last verses of a single selection must suffice. They were written for an album, and are:

Ah, what shall I, whose hairs are gray,  
Whose skin is shriveled, pale with age,  
And eyes bedimmed: what can I say  
To grace thine album's gilded page.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thus would I pray my God to give,  
Our souls a rest from sin and strife,  
That in his presence we may live,  
When death is swallowed up in life.

Dr. Freligh was ardently attached to the faith and church of his fathers, in which he for many years was an elder; and the most prominent and remarkable feature of his character, was his ardent piety. He seemed to dwell in constant contemplation of the goodness, the greatness, and the majesty of God. It was his ruling passion, and every emotion of his heart, was gratitude and love to God; and his emotions kindle into awe at so august a theme! In a letter, dated November, 1849, he exclaims with Job. "Behold I am vile"; I have no confidence in the flesh; The cross of Christ is my crown; His mercy seat is my hiding place; His sufferings are the ground of my hope and rejoicing; His death the price of my life; His wounds and bruises my refuge, when the storm of God's wrath sweeps away the wicked; His love my wonder and astonishment; His intercession my strong advocacy with the Father; His righteousness my justification; His mediatorial work, my all in all for life eternal.

With a life-example in accordance with such a faith, the good old patriarch passed to his rest.

Three sons and seven daughters survive to cherish the memory and the example of a loving father, and a good man.

### RENSSELAER GANSEVOORT.

Rensselaer Gansevoort was the son of Leonard Gansevoort, whose ancestry was among the early Dutch settlers of Albany. Rensselaer was born in Greenbush, opposite Albany, in 1803. He entered Union College where he graduated in 1819, receiving the degree of bachelor of arts. Shortly afterwards he began the study of medicine under the direction of Dr. Platt Williams, and attended lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in New York city, from which institution he received his medical diploma in 1826. Dr. Gansevoort commenced practice in Bethlehem, but at the expiration of one or two years returned to Albany and entered into business with Dr. Vernor Cuyler. In 1831, he went to New Orleans, and soon removed up the river to Donalsonville, where he died in 1838, at the age of thirty-five years. Dr. Gansevoort was a gentleman, of fine personal appearance, and well educated in his profession.

### JOHN WARREN HINKLEY.

John Warren Hinkley was a son of John Hinkley, and descended through six generations from Thomas Hinkley, the governor of Plymouth colony, in 1681, and whose ancestry traces back to John D. Hinkley, high sheriff of Staffordshire, England, in the reign of Edward III, Anno Domini 1327.

John Warren was born in the city of Albany, on the 31st day of March, 1804. He was a pupil at the Albany Acade-

my in 1818, and began the study of medicine several years later in the office of Dr. Peter Wendell, and continued it under the direction of Dr. Peter Van OLinda. Having attended a course of medical lectures in Boston, he received a license from the Albany County Medical Society, in October, 1825, and at the same time united with the Society and served for several years as its Treasurer. He at once began business in his native city where he continued to reside during the whole of his life. The records of the Society bear witness to his regular attendance at its meetings for many years. Dr. Hinkley received the honorary degree of doctor of medicine from the regents of the university of the state of New York, in 1854. He quietly and unostentatiously pursued the practice of his profession for a period of thirty-six years, enjoying the respect and esteem of his professional brethren, while he neither courted their friendship or their confidence. He was diligent in his business, and faithful to those who intrusted themselves to his care.

Dr. Hinkley died of hydrothorax, on the 26th day of March, 1861, at the age of fifty-seven, receiving during his illness the attendance of his life-long sincere friend and preceptor, Dr. Van OLinda. At the period of his illness Dr. Hinkley was contemplating joining his family, who at the time of his death were in Europe, whither they had gone for the completion of the musical education of a favorite daughter, who possessed a talent for music with a voice of rare sweetness and power. Mademoiselle Hinkley made her first appearance as a cantatrice on the continent, and after her return to this country was received with great favor. She became Madam Susini, and was winning reputation as a prima donna when she died suddenly in the city of New York, in 1862, at the early age of twenty-two years.

## DAVID W. D. HOUGHTAILING.

David W. D. Houghtailing was born in Coeymans, Albany county, in 1796. He received his license to practice in 1822. He was considered a respectable practitioner, and resided at Watervliet for five years preceding his death, which occurred from bilious fever in 1829, he being only thirty-three years of age.

## GUY SPALDING.

Guy Spalding was born June 28th, 1780. His teacher in medicine was Dr. Ely. He commenced practice in Coeymans, about the year 1810, where he continued actively engaged in a large and laborious practice until the period of his death, which occurred June 17th, 1854. The disease which caused his death was induced by too severely taxing his strength in a protracted case of midwifery, when he was in his seventy-fifth year.

## HENRY VAN OLINDA.

Henry Van OLinda was born in the town of Charleston, Montgomery county, in this state, on the 9th of April, 1805. He was the son of Cornelius Van OLinda, and descended in the fifth generation, from Peter Van OLinda, who came from Holland, and died at Watervliet, about seven miles north of Albany at an advanced age, in 1715.

Until he was seventeen he spent his time upon his father's farm. In 1822 he commenced the study of medicine with his brother, Dr. Peter Van OLinda, of this city, and under the direction of an elder brother, the Rev. Douw Van OLinda, he acquired a considerable knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages, and was thereby enabled to



form the habit to which he uniformly adhered, and in which he took great pleasure, of tracing the technicalities of the profession, to their strictest derivations from those languages. He made good improvement in the collateral branches of the profession, and during one course of lectures was the assistant of that learned and distinguished teacher, Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, in his chemical lectures. He was licensed to practice by the Medical Society of the county of Montgomery, in 1826, and shortly after entered into business with his brother. Albany was the field of his labor.

Dr. Van OLinda was ardent and earnest in whatever he undertook. He had not the advantages of most of the students at the present day, but the deficiencies from the want of such he labored diligently to overcome. He was indefatigable in his attention to his patients, and counted no sacrifice on his part too great for them while under his care. From such faithful attendance a strong friendship often grew between him and his patients.

After ten years of severe labor, a scrofulous disease began to develop, and it continued through his life. His health at length failed, and in the winter of 1835 he sought relief by a short sojourn in Savannah, and the ensuing winter he spent in St Augustine, Florida, with a few of his patients and friends. The relief to his malady thus obtained was only temporary and palliative. He made a voyage to Europe in the autumn of 1843, visiting Liverpool, Birmingham, London, and Manchester, but returning without going to the continent, his main object having been for a sea voyage; but his constitution was so much impaired that he derived but little benefit from it. He returned, and after a painful illness, died on the 30th of September, 1846, in the forty-first year of his age.

Dr. Van OLinda was a man of agreeable manners, social habits, and prepossessing in his personal appearance. He

was fond of rural sports, and sometimes indulged in them by excursions with a party of friends to the northern counties for hunting and fishing. He made no pretensions to being a great man, but he was faithful and diligent in the duties of his profession, and occupied a respectable position in it. He had a large practice; and this may be more definite by stating that after twenty years in the profession, during ten of which he was an invalid, at times absent for months from duty, and at other times unable to perform it, yet at the time of his death his outstanding accounts amounted to seventy thousand dollars, of which only about three thousand could be collected.

This vast amount of service, rendered mostly to the poor, in such a simple, unostentatious manner, should embalm a man in the memory of future generations as a benefactor to his country and his race. But alas! how soon are such deeds forgotten.

### HENRY VAN ANTWERP.

Henry Van Antwerp was born in the town of Stillwater, (now Mechanicsville) Saratoga county, on the 29th, of September, 1802, where he received the rudiments of his early education. He afterwards attended the academy at Fairfield, New York, where having graduated he went to New York city, and began the study of medicine with Dr. Christopher C. Yates, then a resident of that place. Yellow fever was prevalent in New York, and Mr. Van Antwerp, became ill with it, and when his convalescence was sufficient to resume his studies he became a pupil of Dr. Platt Williams in Albany. He became a licentiate of the Medical Society of the state of New York in 1825, and opened an office in Albany. He joined the county Society in 1828, of which he became an active member and served as its Librarian. In the cholera season of 1832, he performed an honorable

part of the severe labor rendered by the medical profession of the city.

Dr. Van Antwerp removed his residence to Charleston, South Carolina, in 1835, and after a few years again removed to New Orleans. Circumstances induced him after a brief period to settle in Balize, Louisiana, a few miles above New Orleans, where for nearly twenty years he was emerged in the duties of his profession. Here he had abundant opportunities to become familiar with the yellow and congestive fevers incident to the locality, and in their successful treatment he acquired a considerable reputation. His practice was always general, though the breaking out of a species of ophthalmia led him to pay particular attention to the treatment of diseases of the eye, in which the skill awarded to him, was equal to that he had gained in the management of fevers.

In 1857, possessed of all the means which a moderate ambition considered as essential to his comfort, he retired from practice, and returned to the north to enjoy the leisure that he had denied himself in earlier years. But his long residence in the south had unfitted him for the severity of northern winters, and he determined to spend his winter months in New Orleans; the existence of a pulmonary disease being already manifested. In his journey north he became more seriously ill, and died in Cincinnati on the 1st day of May, 1859, at the age of fifty-seven years. His remains were brought to Albany for sepulture. Dr. Van Antwerp was never married. He was a man of modest, and retiring disposition, neither seeking distinction or publicity, but contented to act well and faithful his part in the sphere providence had allotted to him.

### SAMUEL HUMPHRIES.

Samuel Humphries, was the son of William Humphries, a respectable mechanic, who came from England at the

close of the last century, and settled in Albany, where Samuel was born about the year 1800. He was a pupil in medicine with Dr. James McNaughton, and was prepared by him for his examination before the Censors of the State Medical Society, from which he received his license in 1821. His professional career began in Albany, but he removed to New York, and during the years 1824 1825 he had an apothecary shop in connection with his office. He returned to Albany, for a short residence in 1828, but soon afterwards went to Norfolk, Virginia, where he remained about two years; about this time he entered into an engagement with the American Colonization Society, and sailed for Liberia, with a vessel fitted out with colored emigrants. He arrived with his mission, but in a few months afterwards he fell a victim to pulmonary disease, which was doubtless in its incipient stages when he left America, and he died in Africa about 1832. The intelligence of his death was sent back to his friends by the physician of the colony. It is not supposed that Dr. Humphries, went on this mission from any special partiality to the cause but for the opportunity for business, and possibly for the change of climate which failing health admonished him to seek.

Dr. Humphries was twice married but left no children.

#### ASA BURBANK.

The notice of Asa Burbank is scarcely more than a single reminiscence, and yet that single reminiscence it seems desirable to preserve. He joined the Society in 1828, and was undoubtedly a man of some literary, or scientific culture, as his name appears on the roll of the Albany Institute. He came from Massachusetts, and had been connected with the College at Pittsfield. His office was on South Pearl street. Dr. Burbank, was considerable past the me-



ridian of life when he came to Albany to reside. In his office window on a large curtain, was painted in vivid colors, the good samaritan, pouring oil and wine upon the man who fell among thieves. Probably this picture was designed to convey an impression of his kindness, and attention to the sick, rather than an index to his theory and practice. There is no record that he died here, and it is believed that he returned to his native state, and died about 1832. The period of his residence in the city was only for a few years.

### JAMES M. BROWN.

James M. Brown was a native of Albany, the son of Major Brown, and was born on the 25th February, 1804. His father died when he was only five years old, but he received careful and gentle training from his mother, who was a woman of exceedingly mild and amiable disposition, and of a consistent Christian character. He received a good English education, and, when a boy, applied himself quite diligently to study. At the early age of sixteen years, he began the study of medicine under the direction of Dr. Christopher C. Yates, and was subsequently a student of Dr. Platt Williams. In 1823, he attended lectures at the Vermont Academy of Medicine. He received his license to practice from this Society, of which he became a member in 1828. He began practice and met with only indifferent success during a period of sixteen years. In the autumn of 1844, he was induced to remove to Delphi, Indiana. Here he found considerable business, but continued ill health in his family led him to return to Albany after a short period. But he was not successful in the effort to re-establish himself here, and pecuniary embarrassments and misfortune followed in rapid succession, such as were calculated to keep his mind constantly depressed.

Many, indeed most of his patients were among the poorer classes, from whom it was quite impossible to obtain remuneration ; still however an appeal to him for any service that he was able to bestow was never unanswered.

In disposition Dr. Brown was generous, frank and sincere. In all his trials he never inclined to charlatanism, or waivered in his adherence to his profession. He shrank from publicity, and his sense of responsibility made him the subject of great mental suffering, whenever he had a very sick patient. He was rather timid, and his great respect for the opinion of others, made him regard his own with too much diffidence ; he lacked confidence in his own abilities. His health was so impaired that he was unable, during several of the last years of his life, to make severe physical exertions or endure great fatigue. He needed health and success to stimulate and encourage him ; sickness and disappointments abated his ardor. Thus twenty-six years rolled away.

In the spring of 1854 he was appointed resident physician at the alms house hospital. A few weeks after his appointment, and in the discharge of duties incident to the office, he contracted a typhoid fever, which was prevailing there, and by which his life was terminated on the 23d day of May, 1854. His age was fifty years.

Says one who well knew Dr. Brown : " The tone of his last letter to me, written just before his illness, was unusually hopeful and cheerful. The expressions of Christian faith which it contained ; the glimpses of his habitual frame of mind, afforded during his illness ; and, more than all, his Christian life are to us cheering evidences that the summons, though it came suddenly, was a summons to immortal joy."

I saw him once after his appointment as resident physician, and I thought that his new and uniform duties had given elasticity to his spirits, and vigor to his step. In a

conversation with me, his attending physician, Dr. Spencer, confirmed, by relating a touching incident which he witnessed, the allusion just made to the exercise of his devotional spirit during his fatal illness.

### MICHAEL MALONE.

Michael Malone was born in New Ross County, of Wexford Ireland, on the 25th of July, 1798. He studied with an apothecary in Dublin, attended lectures on anatomy, and received a surgeon's license. His family removed to Montreal and subsequently came to Albany, where he was licensed by the Medical Society of the State of New York in 1826. After several years in Albany, he removed to Philadelphia, where he continued in his profession until his death, which took place on the 17th of July, 1844, he being forty-six years of age. Dr. Malone, gained a considerable reputation as an accoucheur, and was a man of marked benevolence and kindness to the poor. A brother, Dr. Cesar Malone, resided a short time in Albany, but subsequently died in the South. Dr. Malone left one son, and one daughter; the former entered the military service in 1861.

### WILLIAM TULLY.

Condensed from notice by Prof. HENRY BRONSON of New Haven, Ct.

William Tully was born at Saybrook Point, Conn., February 18th, 1785. He was descended from John Tully who came from England in 1647, and was the only child of William and Eunice Tully. At an early period he manifested a taste for books, which his parents indulged. His preparation for college was defective, but he entered Yale in 1802, and graduated in 1806. His course was embarrassed by his want of knowledge of mathematics. In 1807 he began to study medicine with Dr. Mason F. Cogswell of Hartford, and the following year went to Dart-

mouth, to attend the lectures by Dr. Nathan Smith. Subsequently he was a pupil with Dr. Ives of New Haven where he gave particular attention to botany, laying the foundation of an accurate knowledge of that science. He was licensed by the Connecticut Medical Society in 1810, and received the honorary degree of doctor of medicine from Yale College in 1819. After receiving his license, he taught a district school in Saybrook. In 1811, he went to Enfield to reside, and in 1812 to Milford, and in 1818 he removed to the city of Middletown. He published in *Silliman's Journal of Science*, an article on ergot of rye; in 1820, and in 1823 a volume entitled an essay on Fevers and other medical subjects, the associate author being Dr. Miner. This volume treated old and cherished prejudices and the current methods of practice with little ceremony, sometimes with caustic severity. The authors maintained the typhoid tendencies of fevers; that antiphlogistic measures were contra indicated, that the free use of stimulants were required. The volume excited a controversy of opinion and engendered a prejudice against the authors which neither survived. Dr. Tully removed to East Hartford, in 1824 when he was appointed Professor of Theory and practice in the Vermont Academy of Medicine. He removed to Albany in 1826 and became a partner of Dr. Alden March, where for a time his business was prosperous. While residing in Albany he published in 1828, a medical prize essay on *Sanguinaria Canadensis*, a paper of eighty-four pages, characterized by original observation and elaborate medical scholarship. In 1829 Dr. Tully succeeded Prof. Eli Ives in the chair of materia medica at Yale College, and accordingly removed to New Haven in May, 1830. Here his already distinguished reputation secured many friends, and a reasonable share of business while he prepared and published several valuable articles in *Silliman's Journal*. In 1833, he was invited to a professorship



in the Medical College of South Carolina, a position which however he declined. Dr. Tully continued to lecture at New Haven until 1841, when he resigned his position. Subsequently he spent one year in South Carolina. In 1851 he removed to Springfield, Mass., where he died February 28th, 1859, at the age of seventy-four. His wife was the daughter of Rev. Elam Potter of Enfield. They had ten children; two daughters and one son survived him.

While residing in Springfield, Dr. Tully gave to the world his great work, entitled *Materia Medica, or Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, in two volumes. It is on this that his reputation as a medical scholar must rest. Its publication was by Dr. Jefferson Church of Springfield, a man of unselfish devotion to science, who assumed the entire pecuniary responsibility of the work. The volumes are a monument of Dr. Tully's learning as a scholar, and ability as a writer. It requires courage to read it, and capacity to understand it. It is not calculated to be popular; it is too much a work of principles and classifications; too abounding with rigid technicality.

Dr. Tully was doubtless the most learned and thoroughly scientific physician in New England. Perhaps his equal could not be found anywhere. He was a diligent and methodical student. His knowledge of science was extensive and accurate.

His studies took a wide range, embracing botany, chemistry, physiology, and the natural sciences. He assisted Dr. Webster and Prof. Goodrich in the scientific department of their dictionary. This was a great and valuable labor. He was an able lecturer. His views were bold, his elaborations skillful, his expressions vigorous, his criticisms terribly severe and merciless, his sarcasm positive. Many of his pupils thought him the greatest man alive. Younger students complained that his matter was too scientific and technical. As a practitioner he was heroic, and his reme-

dies were often such as morphine, strychnine, veratrum, arsenic, and the like; while he heaped unmeasured abuse upon cathartics, blood letting, and antiphlogistics generally.

In his opinions he was sometimes headstrong. His directions were positive, and he as positively disregarded the whims of nurses and old women. He had not the elements of a popular physician. With his brethren he was honorable and manly; but he had strong prejudices; he was censorious, possibly jealous. In talking, he was magisterial, exuberantly, ambitiously learned and diffuse. He had not the art of condensation. If a man had three Christian names and two titles, he would repeat them all; but sum up his imperfection, and deduct therefrom his merits, and there is enough left to make a man, a whole man (may I not say), a great man. With great love of detail he combined extraordinary power of memory, and the most untiring plodding, systematic industry.

### NANNING VISSCHER WINNE.

Nanning Visscher Winne was the only son of Lavinus Winne, a lawyer in Albany, his native city where the family have resided for several generations. Visscher was born in Albany, on the 17th day of January, 1807. His father died when he was only seven years old, leaving him under the guardianship of his uncle John L. Winne, who, desirous of surrounding him by Christian influences, placed him in the family of the Rev. Dr. Chester, a clergyman of the Presbyterian church, with whom he remained for four years. He afterwards went to attend school in Princeton New Jersey, and subsequently to Union College, where he graduated in 1825. He returned to Albany and began to study medicine with Dr. Platt Williams; but having a taste for surgery, and pecuniary means to follow his inclinations, he went to New Haven, and became a private pupil of the

celebrated Dr. Nathan Smith. He attended medical lectures in New Haven, and received his medical degree from Yale College in 1828. Between Nathan Smith and young Winne there arose a strong and mutual friendship, so that the latter remained with Dr. Smith for more than one year after he had graduated, devoting himself more particularly to surgery. He continued a correspondence, and enjoyed the confidence of Dr. Smith, until the death, of that venerable surgeon. Dr. Winne returned to Albany in 1829, where he resided for four or five years, occupying a part of the time the position of ward physician. He was by Gov. Throop appointed surgeon on the staff of Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer in 1821, and served until 1831, when at his own request he was honorably discharged. About 1833 he removed to the town of New Scotland, where he continued to practice for eight years, residing upon a farm which he cultivated until 1857, when he again removed to Albany. Dr. Winne died, after a few days illness of disease of the lungs, on the 6th day of June, 1858, at the age of fifty-one years. His wife was a daughter of Alderman G. V. S. Bleeker, who survives him, with five sons and six daughters.

At the age of twenty-one Dr. Winne came in possession of a liberal patrimony, but unsuspecting, open hearted and liberal, its care occasioned him perplexity, and ultimately financial embarrassments and discouragement. Dr. Winne was a man of more than ordinary talents, and of respectable acquisitions. He was familiar with the classics, spoke French fluently, and German passing well. He had selected a good library, which however was accidentally destroyed by fire, after his death in 1861. Dr. Winne kept up his medical reading, but never devoted himself with energy to the practice of his profession. The necessity was not upon him in early life, and without that stimulus, which is a blessing in disguise, he found it in later years difficult to put forth vigorous professional effort.

## HENRY GREENE.

Henry Greene was the son of John and Lavinia (Knight) Greene, natives of Rhode Island, the father having been born March, 15th, 1767, and the mother December 8th, 1770. Henry the eldest son was born in Coventry, Rhode Island, December, 15th, 1789. His parents moved with him and two younger children in the spring of 1795, into Herkimer County, New York, and settled on a farm in the south western part of Fairfield, where they continued to reside during their lives, and where they reared a numerous family. At that time this section of the country was an unbroken wilderness, not one rood of ground upon which they went to reside having been cleared. Here he with the rest of the family commenced the toils incident to frontier life, with but few facilities for acquiring an education. Henry however managed to attend an academy, which had been established at Fairfield, and subsequently the medical college at that place, where he graduated in 1814. He immediately obtained a position as Assistant Surgeon in the army, and repaired to Black Rock, and Sacketts Harbor, to report for duty.

His regiment was the 25th Regiment of Regulars. He crossed into Canada, and his first patient was Lieut. Hale, an old schoolmate who had received a severe wound, the ball entering his shoulder, passing through one lung, and making its exit on the opposite side of the body, and whom he had the satisfaction of seeing ultimately recover. Dr. Greene remained with the army about three months, marching with it from Buffalo to Sacketts Harbor, and seeing considerable hard service.

After the declaration of peace he went to New York, and spent several months in the hospital. In 1816, he removed to Esperance, in Schoharie county, where he remained in the practice of his profession until his removal



to Albany in 1828. Upon the organization of the Albany Medical College, in 1839, Dr. Greene was appointed to the chair of obstetrics, but lectured only for a single term. He continued in the practice of his profession until his health failed; he became subject to melancholy, and died on the 12th of May, 1844, of paralysis, at the age of 54 years. Dr. Greene married Miss. Julia Isham of Esperance, by whom he had two sons. The eldest studied medicine and became a druggist, but is now deceased. The younger son studied law, and subsequently divinity. He became a clergyman of the Episcopal church and was settled in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he died in 1858. Mrs. Greene, died at Pittsborough, in January, 1864.

Dr. Greene was a man of great purity of character, and enjoyed a large practice.

### EDWARD AUGUSTUS LEONARD.

Edward Augustus Leonard was a son of Timothy Leonard, of West Springfield, Massachusetts, and Mary Baldwin, of Litchfield, Ct., and was born at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., on the 9th day of May, 1806. He received his academical education under the direction of the Rev. Timothy Cooley, D. D. of Granville, Mass., and his medical diploma from the Medical Institution of Yale College in 1827. He practiced first in Albany, subsequently in Rockville, Indiana, and afterwards in Alexandria Parish Rapids, Louisiana. He was devoted to his profession and resolute in the discharge of its duties. On a visit to the north in 1832, he assiduously visited the cholera hospitals in Albany, to familiarize himself with the disease, and its treatment, and thus to qualify himself to meet it on his return. But the disease made its appearance on the Ohio river boats, and accompanied him on his homeward journey, where his self-possession, calmness and skill, very much contributed to

diminish the danger as well as the alarm, which the new scourge excited. He died of a congestive intermittent fever, on a return from Texas, at Cantonment Jessup, on the 26th of August, 1837, at the age of thirty-one years. Dr. Leonard left no record of his medical observations. The comparatively short period of his practice, divided between three localities of widely different circumstances, though undoubtedly favorable to observation, was not so to writing. A brother of Dr. Leonard, a member of the medical profession, resides in Lansingburg, N. Y. \*

### ISAAC HEMPSTEAD.

Isaac Hempstead, the son of Isaac Hempstead, who was at one time sheriff of Albany county, was born in Albany, on the 8th of October, 1804. He received his license to practice from the Albany County Medical Society.

He died August 18th, 1852. He relinquished the practice of medicine several years before his death, and became a clerk in the Chamberlain's office in the city of Albany.

### FRANCIS N. SELKIRK.

Francis N. Selkirk was the seventh of eight sons of James Selkirk, a Scotchman who came to America just before the beginning of the revolutionary war. He enlisted as a soldier in the war, and after being engaged in several battles was finally present at the surrender of Cornwallis, at Yorktown. After the close of the war he settled as a farmer in Bethlehem, Albany county, where Francis was born in October, 1809.

His professional studies were under the direction of Dr. Joel A. Wing, and he received his license from the County Medical Society, which he joined in 1829.

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\* M. S. of Dr. Leonard.

Having friends in Texas, he was induced to seek his fortune in that remote portion of the country. He accordingly sailed with his wife in the *Walter Scott*, in the autumn of 1838, for some port in Texas, but the vessel was wrecked off of one of the Bahama islands. They were fortunately taken from the wreck by another vessel a few minutes before it went beneath the waves, to be lost in the ocean. Everything was lost in the wreck. The vessel was bound for New Orleans, where Dr. Selkirk arrived without means to continue his journey. He abandoned his enterprise and returned to New York. He was never successfully established in his profession, and for a time sought employment in other engagements. His health, which was never vigorous, at length failed, and he died in Albany in July, 1849, at the age of forty years.

### SOLOMON LINCOLN.

Solomon Lincoln was examined before the censors of the Medical Society of the State of New York, and received his diploma in 1829. He opened an office at 264 North Market street, now Broadway, and near the Delavan House. His name appears in the Directory of 1829, only. During the year he joined the county Society. It is probable that he remained in the city but for one year, and formed only few associations. He came to Albany from Massachusetts.

### ALVA W. ROCKWELL.

Alva W. Rockwell was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, on the 17th day of October, 1796, and began the study of medicine at an early age with Dr. Taylor, the physician in his native town, and attended lectures at the Medical College in Fairfield, New York, and subsequently

at the Berkshire medical school, where he received his diploma about the year 1820. He practiced a few years in Goshen, Massschusetts, and then to lessen the amount of physical labor which his health was unable to sustain, he removed to the village of West Troy, in 1825. Here he was pleasantly located and enjoyed a respectable practice, and reputation, filling during the last few years of his life the position of Post Surgeon at the United States arsenal, in that village. His death occurred on the 22d of February, 1837, at the age of forty years, having been seventeen years in professional life. As a physician he was above the average in ability, and yet without excelling in any particular branch. His ecclesiastical relations were with the Reformed Dutch church, of which he was a member. Dr. Rockwell left a wife, two daughters and two sons.

### OBADIAH CROSBY.

Obadiah Crosby was the sixth of seven sons of Obadiah Crosby, a native of Putnam County, New York. Obadiah was born in New Berlin, Chenango county, on the 5th day of May, 1800. For a time he was engaged as a teacher of a common school, and in 1828, taught the academy at Ballston Springs, having meantime given his attention to the study of medicine with Dr. St. John of that place. He attended medical lectures in New York, in the winter of 1828. After coming to Albany to reside he became a partner of Dr. Henry Greene, and united with the Society in 1830.

Dr. Crosby was appointed Brigade Surgeon on the staff of General Stephen Van Rensselaer. He was a gentleman of attractive personal appearance, indeed regarded as handsome, and in military equipage when mounted, made a brilliant and able officer. On returning from a military review in September, 1835, he was by some unfortunate circum-



stance thrown from his horse and received an injury which, though it appeared not serious at first, in its results began to disturb his health. He was so much of an invalid that in the autumn of 1837, his friends urged upon him the importance of seeking the influence of a warmer climate, and he accordingly went by way of Cincinnati, to New Orleans, but without deriving the desired benefit. He returned the following spring and lingered until the 1st day of July, 1838, when he died in the prime of manhood at the age of thirty-eight years.

Dr. Crosby was upright and honorable in all the relations of life, and many friends cherished him with an affectionate regard. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, and lived within its pale a life of exemplary piety.

Dr. Crosby left a wife and one daughter. His brother Alonzo Crosby is well known among the masonic fraternity of Albany, as tyler of the lodges.

### DAVID McLACHLAN.

David McLachlan was born in Perthshire, Scotland, on the 4th day of March, 1804. His medical education was obtained at the University of Glasgow, where he received his medical degree in February, 1829. Having determined upon seeking his fortunes in America, in May of the same year he crossed the ocean, and made his residence in Albany, where a large number of his Scotch friends were living. He became a member of the Medical Society in 1830, and for a period of thirteen years, pursued the practice of his profession in this city. In February, 1839, he was elected to the professorship of *Materia Medica*, in the Albany Medical College, an institution then in its infancy, and continued to discharge the duties of that office until 1843, when they were relinquished in consequence of his removal to Vienna, in Oswego county, where

he continued somewhat in professional life until the period of his death, which occurred on the 28th of October, 1858, he being in the fifty-fifth year of his age.

### ZINA W. LAY.

Zina W. Lay was born in Westbrook, Middlesex county, Conn., on the 11th of May, 1787. He spent about three years at the Academy in Saybrook. At the age of seventeen, he went to Greenville, Greene county, N. Y., where his relative Dr. John Ely resided, and became a pupil in medicine with him, until he received a license to practice.

He married a daughter of Moses Smith, a wealthy citizen in Chesterville, a village in the town of Westerlo, Albany county, where he began his professional career. He remained in Chesterville about thirteen years, when he removed to Cooperstown, and resided for four years, and then returned to Westerlo. He took up his residence in Albany, where he lived several years, devoting himself more especially to chronic diseases of the throat and lungs.

Subsequently he removed to Stillwater, in the county of Saratoga, where he spent the remainder of his days. He was a man of mild, pleasant manners, in ready sympathy with the sick, who as readily reposed confidence in his judgment and skill. The poor always found in him a kind friend. He was an active member of the Presbyterian church and interested in the religious welfare of the community. He devoted largely of his means to sustain religious and charitable institutions.

Dr. Lay was thrice married. He was the father of five children, all by his first wife, three of whom survive. One of his daughters is the wife of Dr. John Van Allen of Bethlehem.

He died of disease of the heart at the age of sixty-eight, on the fourth of March, 1855.

## LEWIS B. GREGORY.

Lewis B. Gregory was born in the city of Albany, on the 4th day of June, 1808. He studied medicine with Dr. Peter Wendell, and attended lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons for the Western District, at Fairfield, New York, where he probably graduated about the year 1830. He practiced a few years at Canastota, and then removed to Albany, where he died on the 1st day of August, 1838, at the age of thirty years. Dr. Gregory was identified with the Methodist church, and lived and died in its communion.

## PALMER C. DORR.

Palmer Cady Dorr was the eldest son of Elisha Dorr, a prominent merchant of Albany, who was born in the county of New London, Connecticut. Palmer was born in Albany, in the year 1797.

He was a pupil in medicine with Dr. Joel A. Wing, and received a license from the Albany County Medical Society in 1824, having previously attended medical lectures in New York. He became a member of the Society in 1831, and continued in relation with it until the period of his death.

Dr. Dorr practiced a few years in Chatham, Columbia county, and subsequently in Albany, though his business never became very general. He died in this city on the 30th of July, 1840, at the age of forty-three years. Dr. Dorr was never married. He was a man of considerable talent, but lacked in mental discipline and industry to turn it to the best account.

## EDWARD WILLARD FORD.

Edward Willard Ford was the third and youngest son of Thomas W. Ford, a native of New Jersey, born in the

year 1781, and removed to Albany about 1797, where he was a clerk for Daniel Hale, the former secretary of state, and a prominent merchant of the city. He became a leading merchant, and married a daughter of Dr. Elias Willard. To his eldest son he gave the name Daniel Hale; to the younger, the subject of this notice, who was born in the city of Albany on the 17th of September, 1810, Edward Willard. At the age of nine years, he was sent to the Albany Academy, where he remained until 1827, when he entered the senior class of Union College, where he graduated in 1828, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

He began the study of medicine with Dr. John James, then a practitioner in Albany, and attended medical lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine on the 24th of March, 1831, before he was twenty-one years old. Upon his return to Albany, he united with the Society, and for a few years became engaged in his profession, but he devoted himself more especially to the study of literature and the fine arts. His habits were studious, and investigating, his information general, correct and extensive, his library was composed of a fine selection of English and classic authors. He was a man of kind and genial nature.

His death occurred on the 18th of June, 1855, he being in the forty-fifth year of his age.

### JESSE HALLENBAKE.

Jesse Hallenbake was the eldest son of Lawrence Hallenbake, and was born in the city of Albany, probably about 1808. He studied medicine, and was licensed by the Medical Society of the State of New York, in 1831. For a few years he was a partner of Dr. Francis N. Selkirk. His residence was at 104 Washington avenue.

In the summer of 1832, during the prevalence of the



cholera, he was actively engaged in taking care of the sick, and when exhausted in the labor of the hospital to which he was attached, he unhesitatingly and without fear of the malady, lay down on the bed by his patient to rest, showing a reckless indifference to the malady or any contagious influence it might possess.

Dr. Hallenbake was a man of good personal appearance. He removed to New Orleans about the year 1836, where he resided for several years, and ultimately died of a disease that had proved the bane of his whole family—consumption. His death occurred about the year 1846. His immediate relatives are all dead, and the family records were destroyed several years ago, so that it is impossible now to fix the dates accurately.

Dr. Hallenbake was never married. A portrait of him, painted just before his removal to New Orleans, is still preserved in the family of his father's widow.

### CARROL HUMPHREY.

Carrol Humphrey was the eldest son of Chauncey Humphrey, a native of Connecticut, but who at an early period of life became a resident of Albany. Carrol was born in 1805. He pursued his literary studies at Union College, where he was graduated as Bachelor of Arts in 1821. Shortly afterwards he began the study of medicine with his uncle, Dr. Gideon Humphrey, and attended medical lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received his medical degree. The advantages that wealth affords were bestowed upon his education; a diligent and careful student, he did not fail to improve them.

For two or three years he was a practitioner in Albany, and was admitted to this Society in 1831. During the prevalence of cholera in 1832, he was an active member of the profession. He was an intelligent and careful physi-

cian, and prescribed with no inconsiderable skill. He was regarded as a young man of high promise, with a symmetrical figure, an erect carriage, a clear brunette complexion, a full black eye, a prompt easy manner. His appearance was every way prepossessing, while his tastes were refined and cultivated. After two or three years in the profession, partly in pursuit of health, and partly for the purposes of travel and scientific studies, he sailed for the East Indies as a surgeon of the *Edward*, of Philadelphia. On board the vessel he met with a fall, and was so badly injured, that he died in a few days after his arrival in Calcutta, on the 21st of May, 1834.

#### JOSIAH W. LAY.

Josiah W. Lay was born in the town of Westbrook, Middlesex county, Connecticut, in the year 1791, being about four years younger than his brother, Dr. Zina W. Lay. He began the study of medicine under the direction of his brother, which he subsequently continued with Dr. John Ely, and attended medical lectures in New York in the winter of 1814 and 15. He received his license from the Medical Society of Greene County, in January 1816, and commenced business in Princetown, Schenectady county, in the autumn of 1818, having spent the period intervening between his license and settlement at Princetown, with his brother Zina at Chesterville in this county. In 1820 he removed to the town of Berne, and in June 1825, he took his residence to the town of Westerlo, where he continued to practice until he was disabled by paralysis about three years before his death.

Dr. Lay was a man of quiet, unostentatious habits, and esteemed a good practitioner. He was greatly beloved by the people of Westerlo, among whom he lived for thirty seven years. Dr. Lay was the father of eight children,

seven of whom are still living. He died on the 1st of July, 1862, at the age of seventy-one years.

### SAMUEL DICKSON.

BY S. H. FREEMAN, M. D.

Samuel Dickson was born in the village of New Scotland, in the town of Bethlehem, (now Scotland) in the County of Albany, on the 29th of March, 1807.

His father, William Dickson, was by birth a Scotchman, and when a boy entered the British Navy under the command of Admiral Cochrane, but soon after emigrated to this country, and having acquired a competency at the wheelright's trade, he purchased a farm in the village of New Scotland, where Dr. Dickson, his only son resided, until the time of his decease, May 5th, 1858.

Dr Dickson pursued his academic studies under the instruction of the learned Dr O'Donnell, who formerly practiced medicine in this city. When sixteen years of age, he entered the junior class in Union College, and graduated at that Institution, the youngest and one of the most promising members of the class of 1825.

Soon after leaving college, he commenced the study of medicine in this city, under the able instruction of Dr. William Bay, and in May 1829, he received a diploma from the Censors of the Medical Society of the State of New York. The following autumn he commenced the practice of medicine in his native town, and soon acquired the confidence of the community and considerable reputation as a judicious and skillful physician.

He became a member of this Society in Nov. 1834, and largely contributed to the interest of its meetings when professional engagements did not prevent his attendance.

In the autumn of 1856 he was elected to represent the County of Albany in the 34th Congress of the United States; and his integrity of character and unyielding firm-

ness on all questions of principle and duty soon won for him the respect of his associates.

It was near the close of the first session that he met with an accident, which, though at first apparently trivial in itself, was ultimately the occasion of his death.

The accident occurred in his own room, during a temporary recess of the house, under the following circumstances: being desirous of consulting a book in his library he hastily arose from his chair, which he inadvertently overturned, and in attempting to resume his seat without looking around he fell with considerable force upon the floor.

From the concussion of the spine, occasioned by this fall, he soon partially recovered so as to be able to resume his seat in congress and afterwards to engage in his professional labors to some extent. But his strength gradually declined, until within about three months of his decease, when his lower extremities became completely paralyzed.

His mind however, remained clear and undisturbed, and though conscious that his days on earth were numbered, he was enabled to rejoice in the unfailing hope and consolation which is alone imparted by a Christian faith. His age was 51 years.

### BERNHERD SABALIS.

Bernherd Sabalis came from Holland, and spent about four years in practice in Albany. He became a member of the Society in 1834, and gained quite a large patronage from the Dutch population. He removed to Scholharie county, where he remained about four years longer, when he returned to Holland. While in Albany he was associated with Dr. John Van Buren. Nothing is known of him since his return to his own country. He left behind him the reputation of an adventurer.



## NELSON L. HUNGERFORD.

Nelson L. Hungerford was a native of Swinton, Vermont, and born in the year 1805. He began the study of medicine with Dr. Alva Rockwell, of West Troy. He was licensed in 1830, and became a partner in business with his friend and preceptor. In 1837, upon the death of Dr. Rockwell, he succeeded him as surgeon to the United States Military Post, at the Watervliet arsenal.

In the spring of 1839, Dr. Hungerford made a pleasure visit to the Falls of Niagara, and while listening to the roar of the mighty waters, and surveying the magnificent, awe inspiring spectacle, a portion of rock fell, by which he was suddenly hurled to the frightful precipice below. Instantaneous as thought, he passed from the sublime majesty of the created, to the glorious presence of the Creator; from the admiration of His works, to the adoration of His omnipotence! Awful and sublime transition! The event occurred on the 29th of May, 1839; Dr. Hungerford being at the age of thirty-four years. He was a member of the Dutch Reformed church, and one of its consistory, a man of exemplary life, and the future, in his profession, was full of promise. Dr. Hungerford left no family.

## JOHN VAN BUREN.

John Van Buren was the son of Daniel and Maria (Schermershorn) Van Buren, of Schodack Landing, in Rensselaer county, where he was born, on the 14th of January, 1808. His father was a farmer, and the family of Holland descent, having for several generations resided in that county.

John was educated at the Kinderhook Academy, studied medicine with Dr. Squires of Schodack, and attended medical lectures at the University, of the city of New York. He

commenced practice at Castleton, in 1829, and four years later removed to Schodack Landing, where he continued one year, and then removed to Albany. The Dutch language was his mother tongue, and it was the means of a ready access to many of the Dutch population of the city, with whom he enjoyed a favourable reputation, and to whom he was at all times attentive and polite. Dr. Van Buren's habits and manners were rather eccentric, but he pursued a quiet, unobtrusive, diligent course of life, never mingling with affairs outside of his own professional sphere. His death occurred suddenly on the 24th of February, 1856, at the age of forty-eight years. He made his usual visits the morning previous to his death, in the apparent accustomed health.

Dr. Van Buren married a daughter of James Fenn, of Canaan, Connecticut, in 1832, to whom he was devotedly attached, and whose sudden death by cholera in 1849, was the occasion of such deep grief, as for a time to unfit him for business. He left one son, and one daughter.

#### DR. JOHN VAN ALSTYNE.

There is at present, only a single fact to record of Dr. John Van Alstyne. He was for several years a diligent practitioner, with an office on Hamilton street, near Green. He joined the Society in 1839. He was overtaken by pulmonary disease, but labored on until his strength was exhausted. About 1844, in the hope of once more recuperating his strength, he took a sea voyage, but died, and his remains were consigned to the ocean.

#### JOHN H. TROTTER.

John H. Trotter was the son of John Trotter, a prominent citizen of Albany, who died at an advanced age, on

the 31st of December, 1862. His mother was a daughter of Dr. Elias Willard. John was born in Albany, on the 24th of June, 1813. He entered Union College, and was graduated in 1833, and shortly after began the study of medicine. Having been licensed, Dr. Trotter united with the Medical Society, in 1837. For several years, and until about 1850, Dr. Trotter was a practitioner in his native city, when on account of ill health, he withdrew from professional life. He died of pulmonary disease, on the 30th December, 1861, at the age of forty-eight. Dr Trotter was a man of rigid honesty, and integrity of character, strictly upright in all the relations of life, and beloved for his social virtues.

### OTIS JENKS.

Otis Jenks was the son of Nathaniel and Phebe Jenks, and was born in the northern part of Vermont, near Canada, on the 1st day of February, 1799. He studied medicine, and in 1819 removed to Melbourne in Canada, where he began the practice of medicine and surgery. In August, 1829, in conformity with a law of the Province, he went before a board of medical commissioners in Quebec, for examination, and received license from the board. He continued in practice at Melbourne, until the spring of 1839. Upon his departure he received the following note.

Melbourne, Canada East, April 30, 1839.

Dr. Otis Jenks :

Dear Sir—We the undersigned beg leave to address you in terms expressive of our entire approbation and satisfaction at the manner in which you have discharged your professional duties among us, for the long period of twenty years. We are firmly persuaded that you have thereby won the affectionate regard of all who knew you, and such are the sentiments we mean to evince to you by this address, and we beg that the sincerity of our professions may plead

a sufficient apology for what might be looked upon as an intrusion.

We cannot, dear sir, in justice to our feelings, and out of proper regard for your valuable services, allow you to retire from among us, without conveying the high sentiments of gratitude, felt towards you for the steady exertions, unceasingly made by you for our welfare, as well as for the disinterested and friendly intercourse you have kept up towards us during your residence in this country. Ready at all seasons and at all calls, whether from the rich, or the poor, whether rewarded for your services or not, you have indeed acquitted yourself worthy of your trust. The sincere and deep respect which we feel at being separated from you can only be alleviated by the confident hope that your professional talents, your active exertions, your consistent exemplary conduct on the distant field on which you are about to enter may be rewarded in a manner altogether suitable to your deserts. *Fare you well*, is the earnest prayer of each and all of us, and under the protection of Almighty God, may the blessings of health, happiness and prosperity, attend you and yours.

Signed,

C. B. FLEMING, *Prot. Min. St Ann's church.*

GEO. M. ROSS, *Rector St George's church, Drumville.*

J. B. SULLY, *Wesleyan Minister, Melbourne.*

D. THOMAS, *Justice.*

J. BRADLEY, “

D. WATHERSON, “

J. THOMPSON, *Lieut. Royal Navy.*

JNO. AYLMEY, *Capt.* “ “

Dr. Jenks came to Albany January 16th, 1840, and received a diploma from the Medical Society of the State of New York. He continued to reside and practice in Albany until failing health admonished him for a time to relinquish active duties. In 1845 he removed to Kenosha,



Wisconsin, and continued his practice until 1853, when he went to the neighboring city of Racine, where he died from disease of the lungs, on the 9th of June, 1854, in the fifty-fifth year of his age.

Dr. Jenks was an upright, honest man, greatly beloved by his friends and patients, towards whom he acted with conscientious fidelity.

Dr. Jenks left two sons, William Otis Jenks, who studied medicine but is now a merchant in New York city, and the Rev. George H. Jenks, a clergyman of the Episcopal church in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania. A daughter married Daniel Ullman, Esq. of Racine, Wisconsin.

### JESSE SMITH.

Jesse Smith was born in that part of the old town of Amenia, Dutchess Co., N. Y., now North East, on 5th October, 1780. He was the third son of Elijah Smith, a respectable farmer of that town. Elijah Smith came to America before the revolution, as is believed, to what was then known as Phillip's patent, in the south part of Dutchess Co., now Putman Co., N. Y. He was an active, industrious man, but like the great majority of farmers, led mostly a quiet life on his farm, where he died many years ago, having lived to be nearly 90 years of age. At the breaking out of the revolution Elijah Smith was a captain in the militia, and during the war was at times called out to meet emergencies. At one time he with his company, was called into service at the burning of Danbury, Ct. Beyond this, Elijah Smith lived a quiet life on his farm, as a good citizen, holding no public office.

Jesse was one of five sons. In early life he attended the ordinary country school of the neighborhood, and afterwards spent a considerable time at the classical academy at Sharon, Litchfield Co., Ct. In this way he acquired a

good English education, adding thereto a fair knowledge of the Latin language. After leaving Sharon he began the study of medicine with Dr. Cyrenus Crosby, then practicing in Amenia. He continued this study with Dr. Crosby for four years, during the last year assisting Dr. Crosby in his practice.

Dr. Smith settled in Coeymans, Albany Co., about the beginning of the year 1802. The only license to Dr. S. that can be found, is dated July 27th, 1806. This license is given by Hon. Elisha Barlow, one of the judges of the court of common pleas of the county of Dutchess, in accordance with a law of New York of April 4th, 1801, and is headed with a certificate of Dr. Crosby that Dr. S. had studied with him for four years. This discrepancy of dates cannot be accounted for in any way than by supposing that Dr. S. practiced his profession a considerable time before taking out his license. He had undoubtedly studied his regular time, four years before coming to Coeymans. His first patient in Coeymans, was the late Andrew Whitbeck, then a young man, whose son John B. Whitbeck afterwards married the Doctor's second daughter. An incident in connexion with this patient occurred small in itself, but one which made a lasting impression on the Doctor's mind, and which he often related in the latter days of his life. Immediately after the recovery of the patient, his father, calling on the doctor, asked for his bill. This request, coming so soon after his professional visits, alarmed the doctor, for fear that he had not given satisfaction. The father being a prominent and influential citizen, it was important to the young physician that he should have his good opinion and active influence. He partly said to Mr. W. that he hoped he had not called so soon for his bill, because of any dissatisfaction. The old gentleman's reply was "No Doctor you are a young man, just commencing practice, and I suppose cannot conven-

iently wait a long time for your money, therefore I come to pay you now." This kind thoughtfulness of Peter Whitbeck was not forgotten by the Doctor to the last day of his life.

On the 30th October, 1810, Dr. Smith married Elizabeth, daughter of Casparus Ackerman, at that time an active, thriving farmer and business man of Coeymans. Mrs. S. still survives her husband, being now (1864) in the 82d year of her age, and possessing remarkable mental and physical activity. Of this marriage there were five children, all still living. Platt A. Smith, residing at the homestead, Coeymans, Charles Smith a farmer of Oneida, N. Y., Jasper Smith late consul at San Juan, Porta Rico, and now in the department of state at Washington, D. C., Eveline wife of Dr. F. G. Mosher, Coeymans, and Hannah wife of John B. Whitbeck, Coxsack. Of his sons, none studied medicine; one, Jasper, studied law, but abandoned practice some years ago.

Soon after his marriage Dr. S. purchased the place on which his family still reside. It was one of the pleasures of his life to cultivate and adorn this place. He had great taste for rural life, and had an especial fancy for the cultivation of choice fruits. At this, his chosen residence, he surrounded himself with all the comforts of a country house.

Dr. Smith, though a man of decided political ideas, was not an active politician. In the year 1816, he was a member of assembly, together with Michael Freligh, John J. Ostrander, and John Schoolcraft, to represent the county of Albany in the legislature. This was the only time that he was a candidate for public office. The experience of one year seemed, fortunately, to satisfy his desires in that direction.

Dr. Smith continued to live and practice his profession in Coeymans until the 10th April, 1841, nearly 40 years when he died of an attack of inflammation of the lungs.

During the last years of his life he gave much attention to farming. As he grew older he seemed more and more inclined to give up the practice of his profession, so arduous in the country, and devote himself to rural pursuits.

Dr. Smith was a man of active, industrious habits, was affable and agreeable in conversation and took much interest in all matters of neighborhood or of public interest. His taste for reading acquired in youth, never forsook him. It was to him a never ending source of pleasure. He was a man of strictly temperate habits and of high moral character, but in no respect an ascetic in his ideas or habits.

As a business man he was careful and painstaking, husbanding well his resources. He accumulated property gradually, by slow degrees, never risking anything in hazardous speculations. In this way he was able to leave to his family a comfortable estate, as also pleasant remembrances of his many virtues.

### PATRICK GANNON.

Patrick Gannon was born in Queens county, Ireland, in 1780. His father was a man of wealth, and respected in the neighborhood in which he resided.

The family were from time immemorial Roman Catholics. The doctor himself was educated with reference to the ministry in the Romish church. His early years were spent at an academy in Kilkenny; he was subsequently transferred to Trinity College Dublin, where he completed his education. He came to the United States of America in the year 1800, intending to spend his life here as a priest in the church of his fathers. On his arrival, instead of entering the ministry he engaged in teaching a school in the city of New York for one year. At the expiration of the year, he made up his mind to enter the medical profession and in 1802, commenced his studies with Dr. Broadhead of Columbia county, where he remained one year,



and returned to New York where he studied three years, enjoying some of the best advantages which the country at that time afforded. He commenced practice in Brunswick, Rensselaer county, where he soon acquired an excellent reputation.

In 1810 he renounced the religion in which he had been educated. In the year 1815, he removed to Schoharie county, where he settled upon a farm, at the same time continuing his medical practice. Here he remained until his removal, in 1833, to the city of Albany, where he passed the evening of his life. Until about two years previous to his decease, which occurred on the first of February, 1854, Dr. Gannon enjoyed good health, and attended to all his professional and other duties. At that time he was the subject of a partial paralysis, from which he never fully recovered; his faculties were but slightly touched by it. About a fortnight previous to his decease he had another stroke of paralysis, which proved the immediate cause of his death. He died in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

Dr. Gannon was married in 1806, to Miss Huddleston, of Clermont, Columbia county, with whom he lived forty-eight years in the utmost conjugal affection and harmony. He died leaving her a childless widow to mourn the loss of one of the best of husbands.

Dr. Gannon was an excellent man, of good sense, and was far more highly educated than was generally supposed. He was eminently prudent and considerate in all his intercourse, and never needlessly gave offence to anybody; modest, and more ready to yield than to claim precedence. In his professional capacity he was greatly respected, and during his residence in the country he had an extended and profitable practice. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, a constant and devout communicant.

He made his will previous to his decease, in which after providing liberally for his wife, relatives and friends, he

bequeathed legacies to several of the clergymen of the city. To his own pastor one hundred and seventy-five dollars, and to another fifty dollars; to eight more thirty-five dollars each; to two others twenty-five dollars each; to his pastor while he was living in Schoharie seventy-five dollars; to the poor of the congregation with whom he worshipped in the city of Albany, one thousand dollars, to be placed at interest, payable annually, and distributed among the poor once a year, in such sums not exceeding twelve dollars, to any one person, as the distributors in their discretion may deem best calculated to do the most good. To the poor of the third and fourth Presbyterian churches, of the Bethel church, and of the North Pearl street Methodist church in the city of Albany, twenty-five dollars to each of said churches. To the American Home Missionary Society, to the Board of Foreign Missions, and to the American Bible Society, each one hundred dollars; to the Theological Seminaries at Princeton, and New Brunswick, state of New Jersey, and to the Union Theological Seminary New York city, each three hundred and fifty dollars, equal to one thousand and fifty dollars; to the trustees of the Albany Academy, one hundred and fifty dollars, the interest of which was to be annually devoted to the purchase of a gold medal to be awarded at each annual examination to the student who has made the greatest proficiency in mathematics and natural philosophy. To the Young Men's Association in the city of Albany, fifty dollars; to the Apprentices Library, fifty dollars; to the poor of the town of Brunswick, Rensselaer county, and the town of Cobleskill in the county of Schoharie, seventy-five dollars each, to be distributed by the supervisor of each of said towns, and to several of the physicians of Albany, with whom he had been intimate associates, each the sum of twenty-five dollars. The

catholic liberality of Dr. Gannon's heart and spirit, his good will towards all men is displayed in his bequests. For these items I am indebted to his executor, Christopher Y. Lansing, Esq.

### EDWIN JAMES.

Edwin James was the youngest of ten sons of Deacon Daniel James, a native of Rhode Island, who settled in Stockbridge, Mass., and afterwards in Vermont. Edwin was born in Weybridge, Addison county, Vermont, in August, 1798. He graduated at Middlebury College at an early age, and came to Albany to study medicine with his brother Dr. Daniel James, who is noticed in these pages. He was meanwhile, a diligent student in the natural sciences, and entered with zeal into scientific pursuits. His talents were such, and his attainments, that at an early age he was brought to the attention of scientific men, and on recommendation of Dr. Torrey, and Hon. Smith Thompson, Secretary of Navy, and more recently, Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, he was appointed by Mr. Calhoun, Secretary of War, botanist and geologist to Major Long's expedition to the Rocky mountains. He was scarcely twenty-one years of age. Dr. James left St. Louis to join the expedition on 4th day of May, 1820, in company with Major Long, and Capt. John R. Bell of the army, and traveled on horseback twenty-four days, until they reached the point on the Missouri in Nebraska Territory, a few miles above the place where Omaha city now stands. The expedition was composed of twenty persons, and on the 6th of June, they all started for the sources of the Platte river, and after six weeks journeying, and novel adventure, they reached the chasm where the river issues from the mountains. They visited what the accomplished explorer Pike, had supposed the highest spur of the Rocky mountains, and which bears his name, and also a summit

that had been reported as inaccessible, for the peak that Pike ascended, was eight or ten miles south of this, a much less elevation, and wooded to the top. Love of adventure and courageous enterprise, were combined in Dr. James, and on the 13th and 14th of July, a detachment of the party under his direction made the ascent. On the 15th day of July, 1820, Major Long records as follows: "From information derived from the Indians and hunters, as also from the account given by Pike, relative to this peak, it appears that no person, either civilized or savage, has ever ascended to its summit, and that the ascent was deemed utterly impracticable. Dr. James having accomplished this difficult and laborious task, I have thought it proper to call the peak after his name, as a compliment to which his zeal and perseverance, together with the skillful attention with which he has examined its character and productions, give him the fairest claim. Pike has indeed, given us notice that there is such a peak, but he only saw it at a distance; the unfortunate circumstances under which he came into its neighborhood, prevented him from arriving at its base."

The expedition divided, and Major Long and Dr. James intended to go to the sources of the Red river, but misled by Indians, they went to Fort Smith, where they arrived on the 18th of September, having been in the wilderness and among the Indians for three months and six days; subsisting on game, horse flesh, and such other fare as they could secure. The information gained, and the contributions to the botany, natural history and geology of the country, were honorable to the explorers, acceptable to the country, and cordially welcomed by men of science, both in America and Europe.

Dr. James prepared a digest of the various reports, and a history of the expedition, which was published in London under the following title: "Account of an Expedi-



tion from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains, performed in the years 1819, 1820, by order of John C. Calhoun, Secretary of War. Under the command of Major S. H. Long of the U. S. Topographical Engineers, compiled from the notes of Major Long, Mr. T. Say, and other gentlemen of the party, by Edwin James, Botanist and Geologist to the expedition. In three volumes, London, 1823, pp. 344, 356, 347. The work is dedicated to John C. Calhoun.

Dr. James gave name to the Ozark mountains, calling them after an almost extinct tribe of Indians.

Dr. James was subsequently appointed a Surgeon in the United States army, and was alternately stationed at Sault St. Marie, and at the Military Post in Watervliet, near Albany. It was probably while residing here, that he united with the Medical Society. He was not the man to be idle at a post where there was but little labor, and he accordingly translated the New Testament into the Chipewewa language, under the title of *Kekitchemanitomenahn, Gahbemahjeinnunk Jesus Christ Otoashke Waweveendumahgawin*. Albany, Packard and Van Benthuyssen, 1833. He also published the life of John Tanner, a lad who was stolen by the Indians in Ohio, and found thirty years afterwards in the Red River country.

Dr. James resigned his position in the army, and became associated for a time with Mr. Edward C. Delavan, in conducting a journal devoted to the cause of temperance, but dissenting from some of the leading advocates of that reform, he relinquished his connexion with the journal about 1836, and concluded to make his home in the far west. About 1837, he received from the government the appointment of Indian agent, and for a time resided among the Osage Indians, in Western Missouri, but in endeavoring to exclude whisky from the country, he encountered fierce opposition from the traders, and was the subject, in consequence, of so many annoyances that he was glad to resign the agency. He then returned to a place near Bur-

lington, in Iowa, where he had selected a home, and took up his residence.

From this time forward, a change seems to have come over the mental habits of Dr. James. He courted retirement, and sought to avoid observation; his manners and his dress became singular and eccentric. He discarded confidants, and unbosomed his thoughts to none. He appeared distrustful of others, cold as the mountains, and impenetrable as the wilderness he had explored; and he assumed an Indian fortitude and stoicism. And from this change, he became in matters of politics, ultra radical, and uncompromising, and especially on the subject of slavery, where he was an unconditional abolitionist. He showed great kindness to some poor Danish Mormons, who settled in his neighborhood, giving them employment, and instruction in the English language.

In early life, Dr. James united with the Presbyterian church, but subsequently changed his relation to the Baptist, and later in his life his mind became greatly unsettled in religious faith. It is but charitable to believe in a review of his conduct and opinions in the last years of his life, that his eccentricity arose from a morbid condition, that approached "a mind diseased."

Encountering for years the dangers of adventure in the dark forests, among the rocks and rivers of the great west, and among wily Indians, Dr. James was at last to meet, within sight of his own door, an accidental death.\* He fell from a load of wood, as the wagon descended a small pitch of ground, and the wheels passed over his chest, and he died three days afterwards, on the 28th of October, 1861, at the age of sixty-three years.

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\* Most of the facts of the foregoing sketch, were from a Burlington, Iowa, paper, noticing the death of Dr. James.

## AMMOND HAMMOND.

Ammond Hammond was a son of Benoni G. Hammond, and was born in the town of Hope, Montgomery county, (now Hamilton) on the 29th December, 1803. At the age of seventeen he taught a common school, and subsequently began to study medicine with Dr. Mitchell, of Northville, with whom he remained for three years, and attended two courses of lectures at the Institution, at Castleton, Vermont. After having practiced in West Troy for one year, he went to New York in 1828, and attended another course of lectures. He returned to West Troy and engaged in professional life, which he continued without intermission almost up to the hour of his death, which occurred in the midst of his usefulness, from cholera, on the 21st day of July, 1849. A brother of Dr. Hammond, who was a student with him, died from a dissecting wound a few years previously. Dr. Hammond was twice married, his second wife was a daughter of Isaac Marks, Esq., of Watervliet. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, an upright and useful man, enjoying the respect and esteem of the public.

## TEN EYCK GANSEVOORT.

Ten Eyck Gansevoort was the youngest son of Conrad Gansevoort, of Albany. He was born, however, in Minden, Montgomery county, N. Y., on the 5th of January, 1803. He was educated at Union College, and graduated with some distinction as a scholar, in 1822. He presently commenced the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Charles D. Townsend, and was graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, in 1825. For a number of years he pursued his profession in this city, and became a member of this Society. Subsequently he removed to Bath, in the county of Steuben, where he rose to a prominent rank as a physician and surgeon; throughout the

county his services were widely sought. As an operator in surgery he had a considerable degree of skill. Dr. Gansevoort had a well balanced mind, a correct judgment, and a good knowledge of medical literature. There was no rashness, or love of novelty in him, and he was considered emphatically a safe and reliable practitioner. But there is nothing so attractive in the physical labors, mental anxieties, and professional responsibilities of a physician as to lead men willingly to assume them. Necessity is the strongest motive to such duties. In a new and mountainous country, great fatigue and exposure is inseparable from the practice of medicine; and possessed of a comfortable fortune, Dr. Gansevoort very naturally began to limit his professional duties to the circle of his relatives and friends; meanwhile he became largely interested in mercantile and other business operations. Thus, with health hitherto uninterrupted, and everything around him by which to make his life useful and desirable, in September, 1843, he was attacked with Typhus fever; the disease advanced to a fatal termination. He had not quite completed his fortieth year.

A member of the Steuben county bar says of him: "By the liberality and generosity of his conduct towards all with whom he had associations, and which were marked traits of his character; by his probity as a citizen, the simplicity of his manners, his kindness of heart and many amiable virtues, Dr. Gansevoort won the regard of all who knew him."

#### DAVID MARTIN.

David Martin was born in Argyle, Washington county, N. Y., on the 14th of May, 1800. His father was a farmer who had early settled in that county; David being his seventh son. Having prosecuted his studies at an academy in his native county, he removed to Albany in 1824, where he pursued the study of the languages with a brother, who was pastor of the Associate Presbyterian



church in this city. He was a pupil in medicine with Dr. James McNaughton, and received his medical degree at the Fairfield Medical College (N. Y.), in January 1828, Until 1836 he practiced in Hebron, N. Y. He then removed to Albany, where he resided until the period of his death, which was occasioned by hemorrhage from the lungs, while on a visit to his brother in his native town, on May 21st, 1853.

Dr. Martin was twice alms house physician. He gained a very extensive practice, and the duties incident to it were faithfully discharged.

He was an elder in the Associate Presbyterian church, of which his brother was pastor, and his daily life was in worthy exemplification of the faith and doctrine he professed.

### CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS GRIFFIN.

Christopher Columbus Griffin was born in Albany, on the 30th of August, 1815. His father was John Griffin a mechanic, who was likewise a native of Albany. He became a pupil at the Albany Academy in 1830, where he remained for several years, when he began the study of medicine. He received a license from the Albany County Medical Society, about the year 1843, and became a member of the Society in 1845, and for a time held the office of Librarian.

He served a short time as a private in the cavalry service of the army, but his health was insufficient for such severe duties, and he obtained a discharge from the service.

Dr. Griffin possessed neither the genius nor the education for the medical profession, at the same time he lacked the ability to plan, and the force of character to execute; as a consequence his professional life proved nothing more than a series of failures, and his occasional intemperance frustrated all his good intentions. He was generous, kind-hearted, and was without enemies. He was reasonably

well versed in literature, and spent considerable time in reading, to the neglect of every more pressing duty; but he seems to have had no faculty for making a practical use of the knowledge thus acquired. He was likewise fond of the drama, and appreciated its beauties. His life terminated suddenly at Toledo, Ohio, on the 3d of July, 1856, at the age of forty-one years.

### ISAAH BREAKEY.

Isaiah Breakey was born in the town of Ballibay, county of Monehan, Ireland. There are no records in this country to fix the day of this event, but judging from others that are perfectly accurate, it must have occurred about the year 1789. His father was James Breakey, an Irish gentleman residing upon his estates, where his mansion was known as Thorn Hill.

In circumstances of such affluence he could well afford to give his son the advantages of a liberal education, and he was sent to Trinity College, Dublin, where he received his Masters degree in Arts. Having subsequently decided to study medicine, he was duly apprenticed to an apothecary in Dublin in the year 1814. During the two years following he attended the medical lectures at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, and became a licentiate in medicine and surgery agreeably to the regulations of that institution.

Dr. Breakey was devotedly attached to his mother, and remained in Ireland until after her death, when he yielded to the spirit of enterprise, and sought his fortunes on this side of the Atlantic. He remained in New York after his arrival in America for more than a year, and then by some circumstance in 1821, came to the village of Greenbush opposite Albany, and took his abode, and engaged in his professional calling. He united with the Rensselaer County Medical Society in 1830. Several of his intimate friends were about to engage in business in New Orleans;

and Dr. Breakey was induced to join them, and accordingly removed to New Orleans, and while there he suffered from yellow fever. He returned again to Greenbush, where he continued to reside for the most of his life; a little time before his death he had taken his residence in Albany and united with the Medical Society.

Dr. Breakey had a large library of standard literature, and spent a considerable portion of his time in literary reading. He was a good classical scholar with cultivated tastes, fond of society and of music, agreeable and intelligent in conversation, greatly interested in the cause of education, of generous, catholic sentiments, kind to the poor and always ready to befriend his countrymen, whose misfortunes came under his notice. Dr. Breakey was strongly attached to his profession, though he was temporarily induced to enter into business life.

Before he left his native land, he had established his ecclesiastical relations with the Presbyterian church, and they were renewed in the home of his adoption, where he lived a consistent member of its communion.

Dr. Breakey contracted the disease which terminated his life, in an act of unostentatious philanthropy. Some emigrants, whom he found in the street, were ill with ship fever and in destitute circumstances. Dr. Breakey provided for them, and bestowed upon them medical attendance; and in rendering this willingly gratuitous service, he became subject of the malady of which he died on the 30th January, 1848. He received during his illness faithful attendance from his friends Drs. Cogswell and Boyd.

The wife of Dr. Breakey was a daughter of Benjamin Aikin, Esq., of Greenbush. Two children survive him. Benjamin A. Breakey a merchant in Chicago, and the wife of Dr. Alfred Watkyns of Troy.

## HENRY BARNARD McHARG.

Henry Barnard McHarg, a son of Alexander McHarg, was born in Albany on the 22d day of October, 1826. He was a pupil at the Albany Academy in 1837. He received his diploma at the Albany Medical College, in 1847, and had little more than completed his studies when his health began to fail, and he died of consumption on the 17th of July, 1848, at the age of twenty-two years. He was a young man of exemplary Christian life, and met death in the exercise of Christian faith. He was a nephew of Henry Barnard Hallenbake, hitherto noticed, and died of the same hereditary disease.

## PAUL TODD TABER.

Paul Todd Taber was an only son of Azor Taber, a member of the Albany bar, and a gentleman of distinguished legal attainments, who, having occupied a prominent position in his profession, and served as state senator in 1852 and 53, died at the residence of his daughter, near Albany, June 10, 1858.

Paul was born in Knox, the native town of his father, and where he then resided, on the 9th of February, 1827. He bore the name of his maternal grandfather, General Paul Todd, a prominent citizen of Knox.

In 1839, Mr. Taber having removed to Albany, Paul entered the Albany Academy, where he remained for several years, and until he began the study of medicine with Dr. Armsby. He attended lectures at the Albany Medical College, where he graduated at the summer examination in 1848.

He opened an office in the city, and joined the Society at its annual meeting in 1848. After practicing a short time he started with a party of friends, several of whom were fellow graduates, by the overland route for California,



towards which place thousands of enterprising young men were being allured. A slight illness detained him at St. Josephs, Missouri, where his companions left him. During his sojourn there, he was so impressed with the facilities the state afforded for the success of a young physician, that he soon opened an office at Rock House Prairie, a small place in the vicinity of St. Josephs. After a few years of very successful practice, he was taken ill and died of pneumonia on his twenty fifth birth day, Feb. 9, 1851; leaving a wife to whom he had been but a few months married. One daughter, Julia Pauline, survives him.

Dr. Taber passed away in the commencement of a career that promised to be one of honorable usefulness, and where his position in a new country, would have soon given to him a leading influence.

### ABRAHAM H. McKOWN.

Abraham H. McKown was the third son of John and Catharine McKown, and was born in the town of Guilderland, about four miles west of the city of Albany, on the 1st day of August, 1820. Having obtained a common school education, he began the study of medicine under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Eights, and attended lectures at the Albany Medical College, where he graduated, in 1845. Dr. McKown went to the city of New York for the purpose of establishing himself in his profession, but he returned to his native town, where he practiced for two or three years. At the time of his death, which occurred suddenly, he was residing in Albany. The event took place on the 15th of February, 1853, when he was in his thirty-third year.

## JACOB REINHART.

Jacob Reinhart was born in the Duchy of Baden, in the year 1825. His medical studies were pursued at the University of Heidelburgh and Gottingen, where having passed his examinations, he was admitted to the degree of medicine, in 1847. His political sentiments were strongly republican, and he became a participator in the Revolution against the Duke, in 1848. What punishment he received for his conduct in his own country, it is now impossible to determine, but he received confiscation and banishment in 1849. Soon after reaching America, he came to Albany, being then only twenty-four years of age, and began the practice of his profession. His talents were of a high order, and his accomplishments what might have been expected of a rigid German student. He was well versed in anatomy and pathology. In a few years he acquired a large practice among the German population, and seemed to enjoy their full confidence, as he was in habits and manners, of their full nationality. His influence among the Germans was very great. Dr. Reinhart often made from twenty to thirty visits daily; rising early, and pursuing his labors on foot, over the outskirts of the city, in which a favorite little dog was usually his faithful attendant.

His habits were not such as to ensure long life, and he died suddenly, on the 15th of October, 1860, at the age of thirty-five years.

## THOMAS HARMON NEELEY.

Thomas Harmon Neeley, the son of Harmon Neeley, was born in Fairfield, Herkimer Co., New York, (where his father still resides,) on the 21st day of December, 1826. He was a pupil in medicine of Dr. John Swinburne, attended lectures at the Albany Medical College, and re-

ceived his degree in medicine from that institution, in 1849. Dr. Neeley at once opened an office in Albany, and began his professional career, with every reasonable prospect of success, but his life was suddenly terminated on the 16th of June, 1851. A typhoid fever was prevailing at the Albany Alms-House, of which Dr. Swinburne was at that time the physician. By his frequent visits to the institution, Dr. Swinburne became impregnated with the poison and suffered severe prostration, narrowly escaping death. Dr. Neeley was apparently in the vigor of health, and made but one visit to the Alms House. In this single visit he probably received the poison which developed typhoid fever, of which he died.

A younger brother, Dr. Nelson Neeley, graduated at the Albany Medical College, in 1854, and entered the military service of the United States, as Assistant Surgeon of the 57th Regiment of the New York State Volunteers.

### HENRY T. SPENCER.

Henry T. Spencer was a son of the Hon. Joshua A. Spencer of Utica, N. Y., a gentleman of vigorous intellect, of large literary attainments, who acquired great distinction as an eloquent advocate, and profound jurist, and who died at Utica, in 1857, at the age of seventy-seven years.

Henry was born in Lenox, Madison county, New York, on the 30th of October, 1826. After suitable preparation he entered Hamilton College, where he was graduated in 1847. Shortly afterward he began the study of medicine with his relative, Dr. T. Rush Spencer, of Geneva; but his brother-in-law, the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, residing in Albany, he came to this city, where he entered the office of Dr. Hun, and the winter ensuing he attended the lectures at the Albany Medical College. Before the close of the term, an opportunity not easily to be resisted presented, and he

went with Messrs. Campbell, of Albany, civil engineers, to Chili, South America, as surgeon to a rail road company. He was absent on this attractive expedition for two years; an expedition full of novel interests, calculated to develop self-reliance, and a knowledge of the world; alike important to the success of the professional novice. It was not therefore until 1852, that he received his degree from the Albany Medical College. Having spent six months as interne at the Albany Hospital, he began practice in the city. In 1854, he was appointed physician to the alms house, a position he held until flattering inducements occurred, that occasioned his removal to Bloomington, Illinois. Two years later, in 1857, he removed to Palmyra, in his native state. When the war broke out his name was placed on the list of surgeons for a commission, but for some reason, he never entered the service. In the winter of 1861, by the occurrence of a fall, by which the back of his head struck a stone step, he suffered a partial paralysis, and in hopes of benefiting his health thus impaired, in December, 1862, he took a voyage to Liverpool, on board the Manhattan—since which he has never been heard from. After waiting some weeks for news of the vessel, letters were addressed to the mayor of Liverpool, and to the banking house through which remittances had been made, and from both replies were received. One stated that Dr. Spencer was enrolled as surgeon of the ship, and had sailed with her; the other party stated that Dr. Spencer appeared at the office of the constable of Liverpool, and signed articles of agreement to serve as surgeon of the vessel. The vessel in due time left Liverpool, for New York, but nothing has ever been heard of her crew, or of her passengers. The conjecture is that the Manhattan struck an iceberg, and went to the bottom with all on board.

Dr. Spencer was a noble fellow, open, generous, manly; a splendid scholar, an expert surgeon, a skillful physician,



a sincere friend. While he resided in Albany, I knew him as an intimate friend, and can add a sincere and grateful testimony to his worth and virtues. His position in his profession was honorable, and the prospects of none, more flattering.

### FREDERICK C. ADAMS.

Frederick C. Adams was a son of the Hon. John Adams of Catskill. John Adams was a native of that town, and there he spent the most of his life, a lawyer occupying a prominent position at the bar, a man of industry and ardent devotion to his profession, a leader in the courts of his circuit, occupying severally, the positions of surrogate, member of congress, and of the state legislature, a National Democrat, exercising an important influence in convention and in the party, a father tenderly devoted to his children, who was solicitous for their welfare, and who died full of years and full of honors, in 1854. Such was Mr. Adams.

Frederick was born on the 25th of May, 1823. His mother died in 1837. She was a woman of many virtues, who led a life of unobtrusive kindness, affection and good works; exemplifying the doctrine of the cross in faith and duty.

Frederick pursued his studies at Catskill, until he was fitted for, and entered Williams College, where he continued until his health failed. Subsequently he entered Union College, and graduated in 1843. His sisters were, one the wife of Edwin Crowswell Esq., and the other the wife of the late Sherman Crowswell Esq., formerly both of Albany; with the latter he came to reside, and began the study of medicine with Dr. Alden March, whose ready and accomplished student assistant he became, both in his private surgical practice, and in his clinics, winning at the same time, the esteem and friendship of his fellow stu-

dents. He brought the patients before the class, with a cheerfulness that tended to make them forget that they were about to suffer, and his aid was rendered with rapid and easy movements, while he was ever thoughtful for the patient, and to obtain a position that could not inconvenience those who desired to witness the operations. He graduated at the Albany Medical College in January, 1847. On the 29th of April following, Dr. Adams married Mary, daughter of Marcus T. Reynolds Esq., and immediately removed to Catskill, where he began practice. Here, and in the surrounding country, he engaged in active business, which he continued until 1852, when the labor incident to it began to wear upon his constitution, never very vigorous. He accepted a position as Surgeon, on the Mail Steamer Illinois, running to Panama. His health was so much better on the ocean, that he continued in this service for two or three years, being in the meantime transferred to the Ohio and Empire City. Several of the trips were made to New Orleans. The position was at one time relinquished on account of an attack of Chagres fever. He removed to Albany in 1853. His health had already suffered, and unmistakable evidence of pulmonary disease began to be manifest.

In June, 1860, in order to again avail himself of the benefits of an ocean voyage he sailed for England, visited London, and some of the rural districts in England. He spent a short time in Paris, and returned home after a few months temporarily benefited. The two or three subsequent years were passed quietly, husbanding his gradually waning strength; the summer months being mostly spent at the sea-shore.

Dr. Adams held the appointment of ward physician, from a choice to do all that his strength would allow in his profession, and he continued his kind and faithful ministrations to the poor, until a short time prior to his death.

His strength gradually diminished, and he fell asleep on the 22d day of September, 1862, in the fortieth year of his age.

Pulmonary disease had slowly, but steadily progressed through several years in Dr. Adams, and while its termination was perfectly understood by his friends, he had never for a moment shut his eyes against its certain fatality. Yet in view of the great uncertainty of his life, he was never melancholy or depressed. He possessed energy, cheerfulness, and unusual vivacity, and notwithstanding the progress of his malady, these never forsook him. He met his friends with the same cordiality, and interests of a man in health, and never repined that the period of usefulness, and of life with so many delightful social relations to make it attractive, were so soon to close. He was well educated in his profession, and situated to occupy a prominent position in it had he enjoyed health, but he never mourned because his professional ambition was to be never realized.

Dr. Adams was a genial companion, a sincere friend, playful in conversation, candid, open hearted, without malice, and above every shade of meanness. In social as in professional intercourse he was truthful and always honorable. Himself a friend who could be trusted, he held a warm place in the hearts of his friends and associates. His friendships were sincere and lasting, and evinced not only in words, but in acts of kindness.

Dr. Adams death was the gentlest "loosing of the silver chord." He fell asleep. He died in the communion of the Episcopal church, and the last act of his life was to partake of its Holy Communion, the renewed "pledge of that faith which was the earnest of his future and eternal happiness."

Dr. Adams left one son, James Dexter Adams.

#### ERRATA.

Page 11, line 15, for 1806 read 1808.

“ 257, “ 9, for *Cook* read *Cock*.

“ “ “ 11, for *final* read *first*.

“ 278, “ 4, from bottom, for *aach* read *each*.

“ 297, “ 2, “ for *Easton* read *Eaton*.

“ 336, “ 13, for *in the apparent*, read *in his apparent*.



# INDEX.

- Act to incorporate passed, 1.  
 Act relative to physic and surgery, 33.  
 Act, letter to physicians, 42.  
 Adams, Arch. Hamilton, elected member, 12; sketch of, 246.  
 Adams, James Dexter, 361.  
 Adams, Frederick C., sketch of, 359.  
 Adams, Hon. John, 359.  
 Admission of members, 131.  
 Admission of students to practice, 132.  
 Albany medicated vapor bath, 75; report upon, 75, 77; resolution concerning, 80; state of investigation, 124, 126, 161, 167.  
 Anniversary meetings, 7, 10, 15, 19, 22, 36, 40, 44, 46, 50, 51, 54, 60, 64, 70, 73, 79, 88, 92, &c.  
 American Colonization Society, 314.  
 Albany Medical College, 323, 327.  
 American and Philosophical Register, 289.  
 Anderson, Dr. James, 235.  
 Anderson, William, present at meeting, 2; sketch of, 234.  
 Anthony, Benjamin, 304.  
 Application for room, 137.  
 Armsby, James H., present 111; President, 207.  
 Asiatic cholera, 298.  
 Bailey, Dr. Solomon, licensed, 17; notice of, 17; Dr. James S., 17; Dr. Wm. H., 17.  
 Barney, Jarvis, admitted, 105; note, death of, 105.  
 Bay, Rev. Andrew, 214.  
 Bay, Catharine, 216.  
 Bay, John W., admitted, 62; President, 121, 217.  
 Bay, William, admitted a member, 21; dissertation on carbon, 23; charge against, 29; Tice President, 51; President, 61, 66, 70; motion by, 190; resolutions, 193; sketch of, 213.  
 Beck, John B., 259.  
 Beck, Lewis C., admitted to practice, 47; a member, 61; resolution by, 65; read a paper on small pox, 69; Censor, 89; letter of resignation, 95; sketch of, 292.  
 Beck, Nicholas F., 259.  
 Beck, Mr. Romeyn, to attend Columbia College, 15; Dr. T. Romeyn admitted member, 25; Secretary, 29; report of committee, 35; Secretary, 36; delegate to State Med. Society, 41; essay on infanticide, 42; report, of, 48; exhonored from fines, 62; purchasing committee 79; resolutions by, 201; sketch of, 258.  
 Biographies, 209.  
 Bigelow, A. T., admitted, 90.  
 Bigelow, Uriah G., admitted, 165; Librarian, 186.  
 Bleecker, Alderman G. V. S., 321.  
 Board of health, 107.  
 Bogart, William H., 265.  
 Boyd, James P., 81; Secretary, 81; President pro tem., 112, 121, 122, 353.  
 Bradford, Alexander W., 261.  
 Bradish, Luther, 218.  
 Breaky, Isaiah, notice of death, 191; sketch of, 352.  
 Brown, James M., admitted, 83; licensed, 70; dues remitted, 177; sketch of, 315.  
 Brownell, Dr. Moses, admitted, 40; Richmond C., 43; Rt. Rev. Bishop, 44.  
 Bronson, Henry, 95; paper read, 96; sketch of Tully, 317.  
 Burbanks, Asa, admitted, 83; notice of, 314.  
 Burton, Elisha S., admitted 84, 95; Secretary, 106.  
 Burrows, Charles E., proposed as member, 72; admitted 74.  
 Butler, Benj. F., 100.

- By-Laws, code of, 3; members sign, 6; passed, 8; committee to revise, 11, 12; amended, 13, 30, 49, 57; to revise, 71, 84, 85, to be printed, 88, 101, 109—124, 129.
- Calhoun, Hon. John C., 345.
- Campbell, John, admitted, 159; Secretary, 160; resignation 188; note concerning, 188.
- Candidates for examination to signify in writing, 39.
- Carter, William F., admitted, 121; Vice President, 207.
- Case, Jonathan H., admitted, 104; resolution by, 171; Secretary.
- Censors' fees, 91.
- Chancellor of University, 242.
- Cheney, Enoch, admitted, 32.
- Chester, Rev. Dr., 320.
- Cholera, 107; number of cases of, 108.
- Church, Dr. Jefferson, 319.
- Clarke, Edward H., admitted, 192.
- Clement, Moses, admitted, 54; notice of, 288.
- Clinton, De Witt, 286.
- Clinton, Governor George, 243.
- Clinton, George W., 296.
- Cogswell, M. F. of Hartford, 317.
- Cogswell, Mason F., admitted, 134; resolution by, 166, 174; Vice President, 171; address, 178; President, 182, 190, 353.
- College of Physicians and Surgeons, letter from, 10, 14, 21.
- Columbia College, letter from, 14; Beck, Mr. Romeyn, student to.
- Committee, to publish Ethics, 65; to purchase books, 32; to address circular letters, 22; to petition Legislature, 18; relative to act to regulate practice, &c.; to examine certificates, 47, 32.
- Communication from Mayor relative to small pox, 68.
- Cooley, Rev. Timothy, D. D., 323.
- Cooper, Sir Astley, 282; Chas. D., present, 10; sketch of, 243; Rev. Charles D., 245.
- Cooper, Gen. John Tayler, 245.
- Coventry, Alexander, Dr., 253.
- Coxe, John Rodman, 217.
- Crosby, Alonzo, 327.
- Crosby, Obediah, 93; sketch of, 326.
- Croswell, Edwin, 359.
- Croswell, Sherman, 359.
- Crounse, Frederick, 113.
- Cuyler, Dr. Venor, 308.
- Debts due, cancelled, 50.
- De Garmo, Dr., 48; Society *versus*, 50.
- De La Mater, Dr. Ira M., 273.
- De La Mater, Dr. Peter, admitted, 27; sketch of, 272.
- De La Mater, Dr. Stephen G., 273.
- De Schweinitz, Rev. Louis, 298.
- De Witt, Richard Varick, 296.
- Delevan, Edward C., 284, 347.
- Dennick, Dr. Valentine, admitted a member, 59; note of, 59.
- Dickson, Samuel, admitted, 110; resolution by, 186; sketch of, 333.
- Dispensary, Medical, relative to, 118, 182; report concerning, 184, 192; committee relative to, 192.
- Dorr, Palmer C., admitted to practice, 64; notice of, 329.
- Dunlap, Dr. Thomas, 209.
- Dusenbury, Rich'd. J., admitted, 103.
- Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, 299.
- Eights, James, 254.
- Eights, Dr. Jonathan, admitted member, 20; elected Censdr, 20; essay on hydrocele, 23; President, 29, 37, 41, 51; requests to be dismissed 44; delegate 55; to wait on Attorney General, 64; dues remitted 177; President, 120, 135; notice of death, 193; sketch of, 251; mention of, 353.
- Eights, William, 252.
- Election of 1831, 99.
- Ethics of State Medical Society, 67.
- Exercises of the Society, 132.
- Fay, Henry B. admitted, 192.
- Form of certificate to be drafted, 28; of diploma to be drafted, 25.
- Fish, Selah B., admitted, 141.
- Fonda, Alexander G., present at meeting, 2, 11; sketch of, 209; Dr., David E., 210.
- Ford, Edward W., admitted, 103, 238; sketch of, 329.
- Fort, Stanwix, 226.
- Fredenburgh, Benj. F., admitted, 96.
- Freeman, Samuel, admitted, 43.
- Freeman, Samuel H., admitted, 182, 227; sketch of Dr. Dickson, 333.
- Freligh, Michael, admitted, 68: requests dismission, 78; sketch of, 303.
- Funds of the Society, 131.
- Gauff, Caleb, present, 2; sketch of, 229.

- Gazeteer of Illinois and Missouri, 294.
- Gansevoort, Col. Peter, 226.
- Gansevoort, Hon. Peter, 296.
- Gansevoort, Rensselaer, admitted, 70; notice of, 308.
- Gansevoort, Ten Eyck, sketch of, 349.
- Geographical and topographical committee of towns, 12, 15.
- Geoghegan, William, admitted, 194.
- Greene, Henry, admitted, 88; on medical police, 106; resolutions of death, 144; Secretary, 139; sketch of, 322; mention, 326.
- Gibbons, Thos. J., admitted, 45, 55; sketch of, 278.
- Grant, H. A., admitted, 121.
- Gregory, Lewis B., admitted, 97; sketch of, 329.
- Griffin, Christopher C., admitted, 165; resolutions by, 204; sketch of, 351.
- Groesbeck, Abraham, admitted, 103; Secretary, 122.
- Gregg, Capt., 226.
- Gannon, Patrick, sketch of, 342; will and bequests of, 344.
- Hale, Daniel, 330.
- Hale, Nathan, 218.
- Hallenbeck, Henry B., admitted, 52; sketch of, 288.
- Hallenbake, Jesse, admitted, 103; notice of, 330.
- Hammersley, Dr. W., 67, 69.
- Hammond, Ammond, sketch of, 348.
- Hammond, Hon. Jabez D., 244.
- Hand, Stephen D., admitted, 105.
- Harris, Augustus, present at meeting, 2; sketch of, 229.
- Harris, Dr. Nicholas, 229.
- Hegeman, Joseph W., present at meeting, 2; sketch of, 230.
- Hempstead, Isaac, admitted, 90; licensed, 79; Treasurer, 94; notice of, 324.
- Henry, Prof. Joseph, 296.
- Hinkley, John W., licensed, 70; admitted, 72, 125; sketch of, 308.
- Hinkley, Mademoiselle, 309.
- Hosford, James, licensed, 71.
- Hospital, resolution concerning, 109; committee concerning, 109.
- Houghtailing, David D. W., proposed as member, 72; admitted, 74, notice of, 310.
- Hudson, Dr. Daniel, admitted to practice, 23.
- Huguenots, 213, 278.
- Hungerford, Nelson L., 112; sketch of, 335.
- Humphrey, Carrol, admitted, 103; resignation, 110; notice of death, 116; sketch of, 331.
- Humphrey, Dr. Gideon, 331.
- Humphrey, Dr. William, admitted, 49; Secretary, 64, 68, 69; badge of mourning for, 75; sketch of, 279.
- Humphries, Samuel, sketch of, 313.
- Hun, Thomas, 96; resolution by, 142, 145; report by, 147; President, 160, 171; resolution, 189; memorial by, 191, 263.
- Hyde, Isaac, elected member, 12; Vice President, 29; appointed to read dissertation, 39; sketch of, 248.
- Hyde, Dr. Lucius, notice of, 250.
- Illegal conduct, 101.
- Illegal practitioners, names to be published, 138.
- Irregular practitioners, how to distinguish, 129.
- Initiation fee, 120.
- Jackson, Prof. I. W., 283.
- James, Edwin, sketch of, 345.
- James, Dr. Daniel, 48; sketch of, 283.
- James, Dr. John, admitted, 49, 105; paper on scarletina, 106; resolution by, 107; Delegate, 109; sketch of, 281, 330.
- James's Peak, 346.
- Jenkins, Lemuel, letter from, 123.
- Jenks, Rev. George H., 339.
- Jenks, Otis, admitted, 134; sketch of, 337.
- Jenks, William Otis, 339.
- Johnson, George Y., 272.
- Johnson, Jonathan, admitted, 25; sketch of, 271.
- Johnson, Dr. Stephen, 272.
- Jones, Dr. Daniel T., 230.
- Kane, Hazael, admitted to practice, 55; member, 79.
- Kennedy, Rev. Dr., 357.
- Knauff, John G., Treasurer, 2; on Hyoscyamus niger, 13; revulsive effects of bloodletting, 10; resigned, 16; sketch of, 228.
- La Fayette, obsequies, 113.
- Lansing, Christopher Y., 345.
- Lansing, Chancellor, 211.
- Lathrop, Dr. Oliver, admitted, 32; sketch of, 273.
- Lay, J. W., admitted, 105; sketch of, 332.
- Lay, Zina W., sketch of, 328.

- Lawyer, Augustus, F., admitted, 90.  
 Legal proceedings, 98.  
 Leonards' resignation, 92.  
 Leonards, Edward A., sketch of, 323.  
 Librarian, cause books to be bound, 61.  
 Library, 52; list of books in, 102, 103; regulations of, 53; added to, 89; contents of, 115.  
 Lincoln, Solomon, notice of, 325.  
 Little, Weare C., 115, 145, 164. •  
 Long, Major U. S., expedition, 345.  
 Louis XIV, 213.  
 Low, James, present diploma, 10; dissertation by, on cancer, 27; report of committee, 35; delegate 37; President, 51; wear crape for, 58; sketch of, 245.  
 Lowe, James S., 96.  
 Markay, Nicholas, 92, 134.  
 Malone, Michael, rejected, 81; admitted, 83; sketch of, 317.  
 Mancius, Wilhelmus, elected to chair, 1; sketch of, 221.  
 Mancius, Rev. George Wilhelmus, 223.  
 March, Dr. Alden, admitted 61; read a paper, 63; on committee, 71; paper on fractured cranium, 91; President, 105, 108; to discontinue periodicals, 112; resolutions on cholera, 199.  
 Marcy, Gov. Wm. L., 299.  
 Martin, Charles, admitted to practice, 47; a member, 49.  
 Martin, David, admitted, 134; sketch of, 350.  
 Matthews, Rev. Dr., 209.  
 McClearney, Samuel, 220.  
 McClelland, Alexander, to attend lectures.  
 McClelland, William, Vice President, 2; delegate to State Society, 7, 19; to draft diploma, 11; donation to Society, 13; resolutions by, 13; wear crape for, 26; sketch of, 228.  
 McHarg, Henry B., admitted, 187; sketch of, 354.  
 McKown, Abraham; admitted, 203; sketch of, 355.  
 McLachlan, David, admitted, 93; sketch of, 327.  
 McNaughton, Alexander, W., admitted, 192.  
 McNaughton, James, 81; resolution by, 110, 111, 119, 128, 142; President, 195, 202; report of, 207, 314.  
 McNaughton, Peter, 81; Vice President, 121, 122, 125, 135.  
 Miner and Tully, on fevers, 318.  
 Meads, Orlando, 265.  
 Medical and Physical Journal purchased, 19; disposed of, 24, 295.  
 Medical Society recommend vaccination, 68.  
 Medical reading room, 117, 118.  
 Medical Society of the county of Albany, 2, 222.  
 Medical Society of the State of New-York, 33, 37; ethics, 63, 80, 91, 119, 136; contributions to, 120, 299; organized, 256.  
 Medical education, concerning, 185, 223.  
 Medical Society of Somerset, N. J., 240.  
 Medical Society of Westchester County, 38.  
 Medical Staff, consisting of, 107.  
 Medicines, propriety of excluding, 204.  
 Members, names to be published, 142; list of, 161.  
 Meeting for organization, 1.  
 Meetings of the Society, when to be held, 129.  
 National Medical Convention, 185, 186, 192, 197.  
 Neeley, Thomas H., admitted, 205; sketch of, 356.  
 Newcomb, W., 112.  
 New York Academy of Medicine, 257.  
 New York Evening Post, 58.  
 New York Medical Repository, 215.  
 Noble, William, admitted, 84.  
 Notices of meetings, for members, 60; to be published, 137.  
 Noxon, Peter B., licensed, 69; admitted, 84.  
 Oath, 84, 86.  
 O'Callaghan, Ed. B., admitted, 134; resolution by, 147; report of, 168; motion of, 171; Treasurer's report, 172, 181; resignation of, 188.  
 O'Donnell, William, 119.  
 O'Flagler, John, admitted, 137; resolution by, 164.  
 Officers and their duty, 129.  
 Opinion of Attorney General, 157.  
 Order of business, 133.  
 Parker, Dr. Willard, 266.  
 Patrick, William, 255.  
 Payn, Charles H., admitted, 134.  
 Plan for promoting interest, 175.  
 Post, Dr. Wright, 232.



- Powell, Grant, 255.  
 Practitioners to be notified, 139.  
 Priest, Francis W., admitted, 121.  
 Prosecutions, to be commenced, 113;  
     versus George Cooke, John Thom-  
     son.  
 Purchasing committee, 97.  
 Quackenbush, John V. P., admitted,  
     143, 163; Secretary, 190—196.  
 Radcliff, William J., admitted, 110.  
 Reinhart, Jacob H., sketch of, 356.  
 Reynolds, Marcus T. Esq., 360.  
 Rockwell, Alva W., Vice President,  
     119; notice of, 325, 335.  
 Romeyn, Rev. Dr. Derick, 292.  
 Romeyn Rev. Dr. John B., 292.  
 Room in City Hall, to be obtained,  
     101.  
 Rosenstein, 121.  
 Rossman, John B., admitted, 121;  
     Treasurer, 198, 203, 205, 208.  
 Rush, Dr. Benjamin, 239.  
 Sanders, Jacob G., 234.  
 Schoolcraft, John L., 305.  
 Scott, Dr. Moses, 239.  
 Seal of the Society, 8; paid for 9, 26.  
 Sebalis, Bernhard, admitted, 111;  
     notice of, 334.  
 Sedgewick, Judge, 285.  
 Selkirk, Francis N., admitted, 90;  
     sketch of, 324.  
 Sewell, admitted, 121.  
 Sheldon, Hon. Alexander, 222.  
 Sheldon, Benj. A., admitted, 186;  
     case narrated, 194; Secretary,  
     195.  
 Sloop, Eagle, 211.  
 Silliman's Journal, 318.  
 Smith, Elijah, 339.  
 Smith, Jasper, 341.  
 Smith, Jesse, sketch of, 339.  
 Smith, Dr. Nathan, 321.  
 Solomon, Lincoln, admitted, 90;  
     notice.  
 Spalding, Guy, notice of, 310; Vice  
     President, 105.  
 Spaulding, Lyman, admitted, 52.  
 Spencer, Henry T., sketch of, 357.  
 Spencer, Hon. Joshua, 357.  
 Springstead, David, admitted, 96.  
 Staats, Barent P., admitted, 52;  
     committee to examine files in  
     clerk's office, 88; Vice President,  
     89, 94, 99; President, 111, 116,  
     119; report of, 133; delegate,  
     135; case narrated, 194, 290.  
 Staats, Peter P., admitted, 84, 128;  
     excuses from committee, 173.  
 Statute, how effecting county Socie-  
     ties, 145, 146.  
 Stearns, Dr. John, admitted a mem-  
     ber, 21; elected delegate, 25;  
     dissertation on croup, 27; Vice  
     President, 41; President, 44, 46;  
     resignation, 49; sketch of, 254.  
 Styles, John, admitted, 88, 109.  
 Swinburne, John, admitted, 187;  
     Vice President, 195, 202; ad-  
     dress by, 198; thanks to, 199;  
     puerperal fever, 203; report of,  
     207, 357.  
 Surgeons having license to be admit-  
     ted member, 87.  
 Taber, Hon. Azor, 354.  
 Taber, Paul T., admitted, 194; sketch  
     of, 354.  
 Taylor, Augustus R., 3; sketch of,  
     239; Dr. John, 241.  
 Teaching separated from licensing,  
     147.  
 Ten Broeck, General Abraham, 237.  
 Thomson's legal right to practice,  
     71.  
 Thompson, Richard H., admitted,  
     163; resolutions by, 167, 169,  
     170; relative to room, 177; re-  
     port concerning, 178; time of  
     meetings, 178; resolution rela-  
     tive to dispensary, 182; Vice  
     President, 183; address by, 186;  
     Secretary pro tem., 189; Vice  
     President's address, 192; dele-  
     gate 195, 196; resolutions by,  
     197; report of committee, 198;  
     resolution, 200, 204.  
 Throop, Gov., 321.  
 Todd, General Paul, 354.  
 Tompkins, Gov., 212, 218.  
 Topography committee, 95.  
 Townsend, Charles D., Secretary, 2;  
     to read dissertation, 9, 10; Presi-  
     dent, 94, 99; dues remitted, 177;  
     resolutions on death of, 190;  
     sketch of, 232.  
 Townsend, Howard, admitted, 195;  
     report by, 200.  
 Townsend, Dr. John F., 233.  
 Treat, Dr. Samuel S., admitted, 54;  
     Secretary, 101; notice of death  
     of, 106; sketch of, 290.  
 Treasurer's report, 45, 55, 82, 83,  
     90, 93, 94, 166, 172, 181, 194,  
     203, 205, 208; to pay delegate,  
     83.  
 Trotter, John H., admitted, 121;  
     sketch of, 336.  
 Tully, William, admitted, 84.  
 Tully, Dr., resolution to revise by-  
     laws, 94; sketch of, 317.

- Upfold, Dr. George, 44; Rt. Rev., Bishop, 44.
- Van Allen, Dr John, 328.
- Van Alstyne, John S., admitted, 103.
- Van Alstyne, John, admitted, 123; notice of, 336.
- Van Antwerp, Henry, 81; Secretary, 101; sketch of, 312.
- Van Buren, John, admitted, 121; sketch of, 335.
- Van Buren, Peter, Secretary, 125, 127; President, 139, 140, 142; delegate, 160; resolutions presented, 162; communica. from, 163; resolution by, 189, 202.
- Van Cortlandt, Mrs. Catharine E., 258, 292.
- Van Dusen, Jacob L., present, 10; elected Censor, 17; Secretary, 28; dismissed, 38; sketch of, 210.
- Van OLinda, Henry, report of, 92, 133; Vice President, 160, 165; notice of death, 180; sketch of, 310.
- Van OLinda, Peter, admitted, 32; Treasurer, 70; Secretary, 75; reports on Vapor Bath, 77; report concurred in, 78, 127; resolution by, 183, 191; delegate, 121, 309, 310.
- Van Rensselaer, Alex., admitted, 121.
- Van Rensselaer, Rev. Dr., 279.
- Van Rensselaer, Gen. Stephen, 321, 326.
- Van Rensselaer, Hon. Stephen, 282, 286.
- Vanderpoel, Dr. S., Oakley, 243.
- Van Ness, William W., 216.
- Veeder, Simon, licensed, 10; sketch of, 251.
- Vermont Medical Society, 270.
- Viele, Augustus, admitted, 203.
- Viets, Roger, admitted, 43; Secretary, 89; sketch of, 287.
- Vought, Dr., 43.
- Vrooman, Cornelius, present at meeting, 2; sketch of, 231.
- Wade, Edward, 221.
- Wade, Ezekiel, 221.
- Wade, James, sketch of, 219.
- Wade, Senator, 221.
- Watkyns, Dr. Alfred, 353.
- Walker, C. C., admitted, 187; report by, 194; report by and resignation of, 195.
- Ward, Dr., committee concerning, 142, 144.
- Warren, Dr. Joseph, 236.
- Warren, L. G., admitted, 101; Vice President, 121.
- Webster, Dr. Ashbel, admitted, 49; sketch of, 278.
- Webster, Richard, 279.
- Websters & Skinners, 67, 95.
- Weekly report of deaths, application made for, 78.
- Wellington, Luke, Secretary, 91, 94.
- Wendell, Herman, 111; Secretary, 117, 243.
- Wendell, Peter, present, 10; Treasurer, 16; Secretary, 44, 51; Delegate, 46; report of, 65; committee, 69; dissertation, 36; resolutions by, 190; noticing his death, 201, 211; sketch of, 241, 329.
- Wheeler, U. H., admitted, 134; use of tobacco, 140.
- Whitbeck, John B., 340.
- Wickes, Platt, admitted, 105, 249.
- Willard, Elias, 2; committee to wait on, 20; Secretary to write to, 23; expelled, 24; sketch of, 235, 337.
- Willard, Dr. Moses, 58; notice of, 238.
- Willard, Sylvester D., admitted, 192; resolution by, 200, 203, 266; letter to, 123.
- Williams, Dr. Erastus, admitted, 21; sketch of, 270.
- Williams, Platt, admitted 40; Librarian, 66; Delegate, 70; Vice President, 73, 79; President, 81. 89; complimentary resolutions to, 166; sketch of, 217, 312, 315.
- Wilson, John, 125.
- Williams College, 275.
- Wiltzie, David, admitted, 202.
- Wing, Dr. Joel A., admitted, 40; report of, 43; meeting at office of, 48; Treasurer, 51; Treasurer's report, 55; President, 73, 79; Delegate, 82; obsequies of La Fayette, 113; report of, 125; resolutions by, 166; report of, 184; sketch of, 274, 324, 329.
- Wing, Matthew Gregory, 278.
- Winne, N. V., admitted, 88; sketch of, 320.
- Woodruff, Hunloke elected President, 2; decease of, 24; sketch of, 225.
- Woodward, Dr. Caleb, admitted, 48.
- Worth, Major General, 218.
- Yates, C. C., 54; President, 55, 134, 312; sketch of, 289.
- Young, William J., admitted, 134.











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